

Watch the Label On Your Paper As It Carries the Date When Your Subscription Expires

# THE ENTERPRISE



VOLUME XXXVIII—NUMBER 23 Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, March 19, 1935 ESTABLISHED 1899

## Court Making Rapid Progress on Docket

### 17 CASES CLEARED FROM DOCKET AT MONDAY SESSION

### Continue Page Case Oscar Lewis Sentenced To Prison for 30 Years for Killing His Wife Lewis Gets 30 Years

Handling one of the largest dockets in nearly three years, the Martin County Superior court with Judge Clayton Moore presiding is busily grinding out the large number of criminal cases. Yesterday the court cleared seventeen of the 29 cases from the docket, attendants guessing that all of today and probably much of tomorrow would be required to complete the criminal hearings.

Adjudged guilty of secret assault with intent to kill, Andrew Lloyd and Noah Andrews, colored, were sentenced to not less than seven and not more than ten years in State's prison. Lloyd and Andrews—murderously attacked Mr. Walter Gurganus, white man, here on Washington Street the early part of this month.

The case charging Ollie Page with manslaughter, was continued. Page was the driver of the truck figuring in the wreck that caused the death of John Leavister and Marshall Andrews near Robersonville last September. Three civil suits, asking more than \$65,000 damages, are scheduled for trial next week, the criminal action awaiting the hearing of the civil suits.

A nol pros resulted in the case charging Harry Givrin with trespass.

A continuance was granted in the case charging G. N. Cowan with embezzlement.

Judgment was suspended in the case in which LeRoy Carroll pleaded guilty of an assault upon a female.

The case charging Clyde Silverthorne with disorderly conduct was dismissed.

A nol pros resulted in the case charging Joe Bland with receiving stolen goods.

George Spruill was given a four months suspended sentence in the case charging him with store breaking.

Pleading guilty of battery, Raymond Peel was ordered to pay \$225 to the prosecuting witness and the costs of the case.

Charged with breaking into and robbing the store of L. T. Chesson in Oak City, Jesse Bland, Willie Jones and John Rodgers were sentenced to the roads for a period of 18 months each. Grover Bland, a defendant in the same case, was sentenced to the roads for 12 months.

The case charging Gus Roberson with an assault was nol prossed.

Divorces were granted Delia Purvis against Geo. Jurvis, colored, and Lula Bembridge, white, against Chas. Bembridge. Separation was the grounds for the first action, and adultery in the second case.

In the first degree murder case against Oscar Lewis, the solicitor accepted a plea of guilty in the second degree and the defendant was sentenced to the State's prison for a term of 30 years. Lewis walked all the way from Williamston to Poplar Point, called his wife from her home and blew her head off with the weapon.

Tom Rogers was sentenced to the roads for 60 days for an assault with a deadly weapon.

Charged with housebreaking and larceny, Herman Farmer and Lester Terry were sentenced to the roads for six months each.

Peter Hassell, the strong man who defied Robersonville officers, was sent to the roads for eight months.

Charged with battery, James Henry Roberson was ordered to pay \$500 to the prosecuting witness and the costs of the action.

The case charging W. P. Brown, young colored boy with the theft of a watch, was remanded to the juvenile court for consideration there.

W. J. Spruill was sentenced to the roads for six months in the case charging him with breaking into a store in Everetts.

The case charging H. G. Parker with embezzlement was nol prossed.

A continuance was granted in the case charging David Leonard James with larceny.

Tebbo Whitaker and Gilbert Whitaker pleaded guilty of breaking into the smoke house of Arthur Ayers and others and stealing meat, but sentenced had not been pronounced until noon today. Lester Matthews, charged with receiving stolen property, was found guilty.

### HIGH WATER

Recent rains in the Roanoke basin are about to send the stream out of its banks at this point, Hugh Spruill, working in cooperation with the State and Federal weather bureaus, stating this morning that a crest would probably be reached here Thursday with the water about three inches over the banks.

A crest was reached at 36 feet in Weldon last Friday, and a resulting rise of about 11 inches on top of high water is expected at this point.

### 18 LICENSES TO MARRY ISSUED IN PAST MONTH

### Number Smaller Than Last Year But Still Above 4-Year Average

Eighteen marriage licenses, 4 to white and 14 to colored couples, were issued in this county last month, the number falling below the average for the past 12 months, but continuing considerably above the average for 1932 and 1933. In February, 1931, there were only 9 licenses issued. The next February there was 13, and only 5 in the same month of 1933. Last year the February issuance totaled 23. Licenses to marry were issued the following last month:

White

Irving Roberson, of Griffins Township, and Helen Coltrain, of Williams Township.

Charlie L. Taylor, of Bear Grass, and Flossie Whitehurst, of Beaufort County.

Benjamin Rawls, of Robersonville, and Irma Doughtie, of Edgecombe County.

William Clyde Swanner and Lona Angus Baynor, both of Washington, N. C.

Colored

General Lee Davis, of Poplar Point, and Lucile Bright, of Sampson County.

Carey Lee Moore and Kizzie Perser, both of Jamesville.

J. C. Rhodes, of Cross Roads, and Florence Harrington, of Jamesville.

Eugene Corey and Essie May, both of Griffins Township.

Elijah Watson and Clotie Jones, both of Hamilton.

Phillip Thompson and Daisy Hassell, both of Williamston.

Willie Thompson and Frances Matthews, both of Williamston.

George Walston and Linnie Belle Watts, both of Williamston.

Joe Little, Jr., and Elizabeth Roberson, both of Robersonville.

Guilford Slade and Fannie May Slade, both of Williamston.

John B. Smallwood and Teresa Smallwood, both of Bertie County.

James Collins and Emma Barnhill, both of Hamilton.

Jesse Hooker, of Hamilton, and Ella Jane Eborn, of Robersonville.

N. A. Baker and Elizabeth Williams, both of Williamston.

### Demand Money Back from School Solicitors

Becoming suspicious of their investment, Mr. A. V. Hall and Mrs. J. I. Grantham, of Bertie County, came here last Saturday morning and demanded their money they had paid representatives of a Nebraska correspondence school. In demanding their money back, Mr. Hall and Mrs. Grantham said the school representatives had made certain misrepresentations in selling the courses of instruction.

The four men representing the school were all from Nebraska and are said to have checked out of a local hotel Saturday morning.

### Kiwanians To Debate At Meeting Tomorrow

The local Kiwanis Club will hold its regular meeting tomorrow evening at 6:30 o'clock. An interesting feature of the meeting will be a debate on capital punishment. President E. F. Moseley urging all members to come prepared to take part in the discussion.

### Former Martin Man Now In New York Hospital

Henry L. James, a native of this county but for a number of years a resident of New Jersey, is in a government hospital at Castle Point, New York, receiving treatment. He was gassed in the war and is expected to remain in the hospital for some time. He has many relatives in this county.

## GRAND JURYMEN AGAIN FORCED TO DO WORK IN JAIL

### County Courthouse Filled To Overflowing by Many Visitors This Week

Martin County's grand jury, the main force behind law enforcement, was again placed in jail this week to carry on its deliberations the temporary quarters of the body clearly showing that office space is at premium in the old house of justice.

Ever since the agricultural program of the government was established, activities in the courthouse have been advanced almost without a break, and the new work required much office room. The grand jury gave up its quarters first to the relief office, and, after occupying the old register of deeds' office for a brief period, surrendered that to the farm program workers. It was either jail or the open spaces for the grand jury, and as the weather continues a bit chilly, the jurors chose not at all wholeheartedly the jail. And it is very evident that the jail will be well inspected before the group finishes its work.

While the jurors were behind the bars, so to speak, the 10 tax-list takers were holding their meeting in the crowded little office of the register of deeds.

Arrangements have been made to remedy the situation, and it is hoped that by next June or certainly by next September the four-room addition to the old house of justice will have been completed.

Probably at no time in history have there been more people in the courthouse of the county than there were yesterday. The courtroom was packed, court visitors crowding the bar and aisles. Halls were crowded, and the relief office had its usual overflowing crowds. Down in the register of deeds' room were a dozen or more people attending to business. Both offices of the farm division were crowded with farmers interested in cotton and tobacco contracts, and up in the jail were numerous prisoners, the grand jury and witnesses.

## Program of Stunts At School Pleases Large Crowd Friday

### Nearly \$60 Raised To Buy Uniforms for Promising High School Band

The Williamston High School and local parent-teacher association successfully staged a program of stunts in the high school auditorium last Friday evening, uncovering much promising talent and furnishing rare entertainment for nearly two hours. Sponsored for the high school band, an organization that has made marked strides since it was established here a little over a year ago, the entertainment netted about \$56.85, Principal Hix announced.

While the jazz wedding was recognized as the most unusual event on the program, the entire entertainment had no flaws whatever, and the crowd auditorium gave warm applause to each act. Shaw and Crockett probably held the spotlight as individuals.

In its concert, the band, under the very capable direction of Instructor Bobbitt, unquestionably proved that splendid progress has been made gradually and steadily and that it is fast becoming a musical unit of note, and surely one deserving of the support received that evening and even still more than that. The boys are working to raise sufficient money to buy cloth for band uniforms.

And then Mrs. Jessie Getsinger's school class proved very entertaining with its enlightening answers from the several bright pupils, including Harry Biggs, Hubert "Slim" Coburn, Harcum Grimes, and others.

### AUTO VALUES

Automobiles will be valued on the Martin County tax books this year in accordance with code authority prices, its was determined at a meeting of list takers Monday. The list of values for Ford and Chevrolet coaches, sedans and coupes is, as follows:

Make-Model	C'h	C'pe	S'd'n
Chev., 1929	\$124	\$124	\$147
Chev., 1930	193	181	211
Chev., 1931	249	238	263
Chev., 1932	306	303	310
Chev., 1933	418	385	431
Chev., '34, Mas.	519	509	578
Chev., '34, Std.	443	434	
Ford, 1929	138	110	145
Ford, 1930	199	175	215
Ford, 1931	225	205	247
Ford, 1932	301	295	316
Ford, 1933	414	408	426
Ford, 1934	469	478	517

## Plans for Listing of Property Outlined At Meet of Supervisor and List Takers

### POULTRY LOADINGS

Complete figures released yesterday by Agent Tom Brandon substantiate the report that the shipment of poultry last week was the largest ever made in this county at one time. The farmers sold cooperatively 30,543 pounds of poultry for \$4,476.04, the shipment requiring two special cars for handling fowls.

Jamesville loaded 3,621 pounds for \$520.70; Williamston sold 12,625 pounds for \$1,895.41; Robersonville, 8,704 pounds for \$1,255.02, and Oak City 5,596 pounds for \$804.91.

### NEW RECORD FOR FIRE ALARMS SET HERE LAST WEEK

### Three Calls Received By Volunteer Firemen Las Friday

A new record in the number of fire calls received by the local volunteer firemen was established last Friday, when three alarms were sounded between 11 that morning and 7 o'clock that evening. On several occasions the company has received two calls in one day, but as far as it could be learned from the records the number last Friday was a record.

None of the fires last Friday was of any serious consequence. However, the Gray pressing club one could have developed into a mean one had it not been checked in its early stages. The first call that day was to the Elborn home on Elm Street, where little damage was done by fire starting in the attic. Fire Chief H. D. Harrison ordered the stove removed until the house owner repaired the flue. The last call was received when a boy, named Spruill, fired a grass plot in a vacant lot on Church Street shortly before 7 o'clock. Firemen extinguished the fire with bushes and considered the call unnecessary.

Since the local company was reorganized in 1928, no calls have been received simultaneously, but the alarms have, as a rule, come in a series of three. The records show that in 90 per cent of the cases where two calls were received in one day, a third would follow from 12 to 24 hours later. Then again a call would be received weekly for three weeks, the volunteers remaining inactive except for the two monthly drills after that for as long as three months at a time.

Although little complaint has been registered, firemen reaching the firehouse too late to board the truck have often been crowded off their course by excitement-seekers as they (the firemen) started to the fire in cars. Little regard for the safety of firemen has been shown by drivers rushing by the truck as it stands at the scene of a fire, and with the exception of a few cases those rushing to a fire seldom, if ever, offer a helping hand when necessary.

## Honor Roll For Farm Life School

The Farm Life School honor roll for the fifth month recently ended carries the names of 40 pupils, it was announced yesterday by Principal Hough, as follows:

First grade: A. T. Whitley, Dorothy Corey, Margaret Manning, Margaret Roberson, Grace Peele.

Second grade: George Tilghman Lilley, Doris Peele, Essie Mendenhall.

Third grade: Reba Fay Griffin, Hazel Hardison, Josephine Hardison, Dorothy Roberson.

Fourth grade: Martha Roberson, Alton Fay, Peele, Elizabeth Manning, Della Lilley, B. F. Lilley.

Fifth grade: Vera Pearl Williams, Lala Smithwick, Laura Lilley.

Sixth grade: Ida Mae Corey.

Seventh grade: Bettie Louise Lilley, Evan Griffin, Vera Maude Lilley, Ethel Lilley.

Eighth grade: Sarah Getsinger, Ruth Lilley.

Ninth grade: Therman Griffin, Daniel Taylor Lilley, Evelyn Peele, Mamie Clyde Manning, Annie Getsinger.

Tenth grade: Jay Daniel, Ruby Roberson.

Eleventh grade: Thelma Clyde Coltrain, Bettie Ruth Heath, Beulah Roberson, Sarah Roberson, Daisy Roberson, Carrie Dell Griffin, and Leona Griffin.

Caswell farmers have ordered 2,200 pounds of lespedeza seed cooperatively to date, with other orders being planned.

## Easter Week Will Again Be Observed On Wide Scale in Williamston This Year

### Town-Wide Observance Last Year Was So Successful Religious Leaders Decide To Repeat Cooperative Plan; Program To Be Announced Later

Special significance is to be given to Easter week again this year, according to announcements made by the several ministers at their last Sunday services, and simultaneous religious services are to be held by the Williamston churches that week.

Recalling the town-wide observance of the Easter period here last year, and the cooperative services held then, the several churches are arranging a similar series of services this year, and will ask the entire community to make that week church week with special emphasis in the meaning and significance of that great event in the church year.

It is understood that Mr. J. W. Watts, Jr., manager of the local theater, will offer his building for the noon-day services again, and that the ministers, in addition to the services to be held nightly in their own churches, will go again into the public schools each day, making the religious observance of the week as nearly general as is possible. Efforts will be made to bring the entire religious life in the community into the joint observance of Easter, including the churches among the colored people.

## JUDGE CLAYTON MOORE DEFENDS GRAND JURY SYSTEM IN CHARGE AT OPENING OF COURT MONDAY

### Strikes at Those Able to Aid Who Permit Relatives To Enter Poorhouse

### Jury Duties Outlined

Convening a two-weeks term of the Martin County Superior Court here yesterday, Judge Clayton Moore oratorically outlined the duties of the grand jury, and charged the jurors with the task of performing their duties, irrespective of public opinion, explaining that when the grand jury allows sympathy and feeling to interfere with his duty he is a subject of criticism, but that when he performs the duties required of him conscientiously and to the best of his ability no criticism is due him.

In opening his able charge to the 18 men, Judge Moore explained that some of the criticism directed against the grand jury system was probably justifiable, but that much of the criticism was the result of the misconception of the demands upon the system. The cost of the grand jury as an argument against the system is an absolutely unfounded way of reasoning, for the jury is dealing with human liberty—one of the most precious rights possessed by any citizen, the jurist explained. The grand jury system has long been in existence and will continue. If we stop to give reason to the criticism with the view to making changes, we will find few changes that will prove agreeable, Judge Moore continued.

Before a citizen can be put to trial for a felony or on a capital charge, a bill of indictment by a grand jury is first required. The findings of a grand jury as a result of investigation of allegations on the part of the state does not mean the defendant is guilty or innocent, that duty resting with the petit jury, Judge Moore explained. He also said that a true bill could be returned upon the evidence of one or more witnesses, that a "no true bill" could be returned only after all witnesses are examined. The grand jury has the right to call any one it deems necessary to call to give evidence in a case regardless of whether or not he is subpoenaed as a witness.

The high spot of the charge came when the jurist directed the jurors to examine county offices and jail and county home. Aware of the recent brutalities brought to light in prison camps in this state, Judge Moore said it was the duty of the jurors to see that prisoners received humane treatment, that the petty likes and dislikes of the inmates were not to be considered too seriously. If the offices and jail are found in good condition, the authorities should be commended, and

### Students Compete Here Tonight for Scholarships

Preliminary delivery contests including students from Martin and eight other counties in this section will be held in the high school auditorium here this evening at 7:30 o'clock. High school seniors seeking scholarships at High Point College will offer orations and essays on the following subject, Principal D. N. Hix announced:

"Do I Expect My College Training To Make Me More Useful to My Community, or To Increase My Earning Capacity?"

The public is invited to attend the contest.

## TO HANDLE WORK IN SAME MANNER AS HERETOFORE

### Personal Property Values Expected To Reach the Two Million Mark

### No Change in Realty

Arrangements for handling the first ordeal in the 1935 tax schedule were completed at a meeting here yesterday when list-takers were given values for certain properties with the instruction to do the best they could in placing property on the books. While a few values were changed, the listing of property will be handled much after the same method employed last year, Supervisor Joshua L. Coltrain said.

### ADD TO FORCE

Additional employees were added to the FERA force in this county recently, the new personnel to handle duties in connection with the farm rehabilitation program, it was announced.

N. Clinton House, of Robersonville, will be connected with the accounting department. Randolph White is now connected with the relief unit as property custodian, and Bob Copeland is with the RRA division.

## Mrs. Louisa Bunting Dies at Home of Son Near Here Saturday

### Funeral Services Conducted By Rev. J. M. Perry Sunday Afternoon

Mrs. Louisa Bunting, 61 years old, died at the home of her son, John Nicholson, on the Mary Cherry farm, near Williamston, last Saturday following a long illness of tuberculosis. She had been in declining health for a number of years and during the past six months was confined to her bed, patiently awaiting the end.

When only 14 years of age she was married to Asa Nicholson, who died some years ago. She later married Samuel Bunting, who survives. She leaves eight children, all by her first husband. Their names are: Mrs. Berry Thomas, of Aulander; Mrs. F. J. Baker, and Mrs. George Miller, of Colerain; Mrs. Lawrence Bunting, of Robersonville; Mrs. W. T. Bland, of Williamston; and John, Henry, and Thomas Nicholson, all of Williamston. She also leaves 27 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted from the late home last Sunday afternoon by Rev. J. M. Perry, pastor of the Christian church, of which she was a member. Burial was in the Baptist cemetery.

## Two Hurt in Auto Wreck on Jamesville Road Sunday

Miss Mry Clyde Modlin and Joe Mizelle were painfully but not badly hurt in an automobile accident on the Jamesville Road last Sunday night. They were riding in the Chevrolet owned and driven by John Ashley Hardison when it was sideswiped by another Chevrolet driven by W. E. Basnight and owned by H. Lee Winslow, both of Ayden. The two machines were badly damaged, but other than Miss Modlin and Mr. Mizelle no one was hurt, it was reported.

## Bear Grass To Hold First Closing Exercises Thursday

The first of the commencement exercises in the Bear Grass School will be held Thursday evening of this week when the primary grades present a program in the school there, Principal Hickman announced yesterday.

As far as it could be learned the program at Bear Grass this week is the first of the commencement exercises to be held in any of the county schools this year.

## Raiders Capture Two Men And Still In Reedy Swamp

Going into Reedy Swamp near here last Friday, Raiders C. B. and J. H. Roebuck and Roy Peel captured a 100-gallon capacity still of the copper type and arrested Frank and Lawrence Woolard, colored. Nearly 400 gallons of beer and a gallon of liquor were poured out by the officers.