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THE ENTERPRISE

Advertisers Will Find Our Columns a Latchkey to Over 1,600 Homes of Martin County.

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ESTABLISHED 1899

Boy Scouts Get Fair Response To Second Canvass for Old Toys Here

Need Still Great and Bundles Will Be Sent For on Notification

Voluntary Cash Donations Will Be Necessary To Care for the Needy

A second canvass for old toys and other articles to be used in brightening poverty-stricken homes in the town this Christmas season was given a fair response last Wednesday afternoon when Professor D. N. Hix and several Boy Scouts handled the work. A fairly large collection of toys has been assembled, but it is certain just now that the supply will be exhausted long before all the needy little children are reached.

Realizing that the toy supply will not be sufficient to meet the needs, the sponsors of the movement again call attention of local citizens to the opportunity of sharing a part in the undertaking by making cash contributions to the Christmas Cheer fund. Participants in the undertaking are assured that every effort will be made to effect a proper distribution of every article collected and every penny contributed. The extent of the movement's success will be measured by the final response made, and the people of Williamston have the power to determine just how valuable and successful will be the mission of cheer and happiness.

If you have not participated already, plan now to have a part in making this Christmas a bright one for the less fortunate by making some contribution today. All contributions will be received and acknowledged by The Enterprise.

In making the hurried canvasses, the Scouts might have missed some homes where toys are available. In those cases a direct call to The Enterprise will bring a special messenger. Just call telephone No. 46.

Oak City Parent-Teacher Group Have Big Meeting

The Oak City Parent-Teacher association, the largest in the county, held a very successful meeting and enjoyed an unusually entertaining Christmas program in the auditorium there last Tuesday evening. The entertainment, portraying the birth of Christ, was presented by the program committee of the organization. A report by the membership committee featured the business session, the roll now carrying the names of 109 active members. It was also pointed out that this figure would be increased by the next meeting. The attendance prize went to the seventh grade for having the largest parent representation at the meeting.

Club Women Conducting Special Sale This Week

A Christmas sale, sponsored by home demonstration club women of this county, was opened in the store just recently occupied by Gander's, Thursday afternoon. The sale will be held through Saturday of this week. All money taken in at this sale goes to the Jane S. McKimmon Loan Fund, created some years ago for the higher education of girls living in the county. All articles for sale were donated by the club women for this purpose. The agent is dependent upon home demonstration club women for assistance at this sale. It is hoped those who failed to contribute an article for sale will lend assistance at the store during the short time the sale is underway.

Hog Killings in County Are Later Than Usual This Year

Following a late peanut harvesting season as a result of rainy weather, farmers are expected to be late with their hog killings in the county this season, reports stating that very few have killed any meat so far. While the main packing season falls in January and early February, a goodly number of farmers ordinarily kill and pack their meat before the holidays. A few will continue the practice this year, but for the most part the killings will be delayed for several weeks. Farmers were unable to get their peanuts out of the fields early this year, and the practice of fattening

Williamston Stores Will Be Open Nights All Next Week

With Christmas a little more than one week away, local mercantile establishments will remain open evenings, beginning next Monday, for the convenience of shoppers over this section. The shopping season is short, and as is always the custom, local merchants are doing all in their power to make the trading period pleasant and profitable to their patrons. Visit Williamston merchants today or any time, and be assured that your visit will be both profitable and appreciated. The Christmas season is upon us. Decorations, already exten-

sive in their scope, are being added to daily. Lighted Christmas trees dot the night here and there over town, giving evidence that Williamston is anticipating a cheerful time this Yuletide season. Sheriff Roebuck and his assistants are still in the dark with their decorations at the courthouse, compared with those of Mayor Hassell and Officer Allbrook on the Town Hall. The sheriff avers, however, that a special decorator will be in here from Richmond to help the courthouse push the town group into the dark.

County WPA Workers Still Waiting for Pay

LICENSES ON SALE

State automobile license tags go on sale at the motor club bureau in the Williamston Motor Company building on Washington Street here tomorrow morning, N. C. Green, manager of the bureau announced today. Prices are considerably lower than they were a year ago, and a record sale is expected at the local bureau. In the early purchase of licenses, car owners will avoid a last-minute rush that has for years marked the plate sale, and they will eliminate all possibility of embarrassment when patrolmen start making arrests of those who operate cars with old plates on and after January 1.

The progressive and peaceful town of Oak City in the upper part of the county had an exciting day in its history last Friday, when two fires broke out, one in the morning and one in the early evening. Starting from sparks out of a chimney, the first fire damaged the roof of the T. H. Johnson home, but the loss was not great, reports stated. Church bells were used to summon the aid of neighbors, and the bucket brigade, although unorganized, had the fire under control in a short while.

Two Fires at Oak City Friday Provide Plenty Excitement

Homes of T. H. Johnson and Louis Johnson Are But Slightly Damaged

That evening about 6:30 o'clock, the home of Louis Johnson was fired by an oil stove, causing a damage amounting to several hundred dollars, it was reported. The fire spread rapidly, filling the house with smoke, but a general alarm brought hundreds of volunteers to the scene, and with buckets and what little other fire-fighting equipment they could lay their hands on, soon had the fire out. While the fire and water caused a considerable loss, the main damage was done by smoke, it was reported.

That there might be aid for those dropped from the ERA rolls and who were not absorbed by the WPA is likely but not certain just now. A distribution agent has been named by the county, and clothing and other articles have been turned over to the agent by the WPA, but distribution instructions have not been received from somewhere up the relief administration line. The success offered in the future will be a mere pittance compared with the handouts made in the past, it is understood. Word will reach the less fortunate in a hurry, no doubt when the organization, probably the distribution administration office, starts functioning.

During the meantime patient WPA workers continue at their assigned posts hopefully awaiting the delivery of their pay checks long overdue.

Paper Advances Schedule During Christmas Season

Beginning next week, The Enterprise will be published on an advanced schedule, the Tuesday edition leaving the press early Tuesday morning and the Friday edition going out on Thursday. The edition for the following Tuesday will be issued over the week-end, according to present plans. Patrons are asked to bear the advanced schedule in mind when offering material for publication.

TEACHERAGE AT BEAR GRASS IS DAMAGED BY FIRE

Overheated Fireplace First Day of Occupancy Is Given as Cause

The Bear Grass teacherage, just recently completed at a cost of approximately \$4,500, was threatened by fire early Tuesday evening, when a sill and other floor timbers were fired by an overheated fireplace. A portion of the sill and room partition base next to the back of the chimney were burned, and a fairly large area under the floor was charred, but damage caused by the fire was considered small. The main loss resulted when a hole was cut in the floor to get to the fire, but repair costs will not exceed \$30 or \$40, it is estimated.

An alarm was directed to the Williamston fire department, and a call was made of its volunteers, but before the firemen reached there the fire was out. Neighbors rushed to the home and assisted in bringing the fire under control.

Principal Hickman and family and teachers in the school had just moved into their new home that afternoon. When the fire was discovered neighbors moved them out, and later in the night another move was completed. A medium size fire was burning in the fireplace, and one that could hardly have caught the woodwork under normal conditions, but apparently there was some defective construction somewhere about the chimney.

Head of Notorious County Family Dies

Lou Manning Sawyer, head of a notorious roving clan in this county, died in Murfreesboro last Monday, according to reports reaching here this week. Said to have been brutally beaten by her estranged husband, Ed Sawyer, some time ago, the woman was believed to have received injuries that resulted in her death. Arrangements for the funeral and burial could not be learned here, county welfare authorities and the sheriff's office explaining they had not been notified of the reported death.

According to the woman's daughter who lives in this township near Mobley's Mill, Sawyer disappeared some time ago with his youngest daughter-in-law.

Jamesville Victorious Over Plymouth in Double Bill

The Jamesville High School basketball teams won two games from Plymouth here last Wednesday evening. Coach Satterwhite's sextet showed considerable improvement since the last game, and registered a 23 to 8 win over the Washington County girls. Hardison led in scoring and Miss Jackson was runner-up. Misses Brown and Gardner also featured for Jamesville. Miss Hopkins was high scorer for Plymouth, and Miss Clagon was next best. Miss Gurkin also featured the play for Plymouth. In the boys' end of the double-header, Ange was high scorer for the winners with 16 points. Hassell was next with 6 points. Askel and Mayo featured for Plymouth with 4 points each. Jamesville meets Rocky Mount in a double header at Rocky Mount next Tuesday night.

Minister Stresses Value of Scholarship in Talk to Club

The real value of a scholarship club in the high school was pointed out by Rev. Z. T. Piephoff, Presbyterian minister, in an address before the Jamesville chapter of the National Honorary Beta Club in the school auditorium there last Monday evening. Following the address, the minister awarded certificates to the club members, the program in its entirety being regarded as a valuable boost for scholastic activities. All members of the club and a few special guests were present for the meeting.

Several Hunters Fined for Violations of Game Laws

Seven alleged violators of the game laws were carried before a justice of the peace in Goose Nest Township recently, the court finding all of them guilty. Fines were imposed in all but two cases, and in those the defendants drew short jail sentences, it was reported.

Award Contracts for Five School-Building Projects

Postal Facilities Here Taxed To Take Care of Heavy Mails

Handling already one of the largest seasonal mail volumes in its history, the local post office is facing what has the prospects of being the largest holiday business in years. December activities in the office are pushing toward a new record income, while the incoming mails are causing postal employees strenuous schedules. The holiday rush has hardly been felt so far, and with the facilities of the office already heavily taxed, it is believed the Christmas mails will

literally swamp the office here. Realizing the heavy demands on the postal department at Christmas time, officials are urging early mailing of packages and cards this year more than ever. Probably additional help will be made available, but even then delayed mailing is likely to result in late deliveries. Patrons of the local office are urged to bear the circumstances in mind, and cooperate in the efficient handling of the mails by properly addressing letters, cards and packages and mailing all articles early.

County's Last Veteran Of Confederacy Passes

David F. Roberson, Age 87, Passes at His Robersonville Home

Saw Action In Lee's Army Around Richmond When Only a Young Boy

David F. Roberson, 87-year-old Confederate veteran, died at his home in Robersonville early Thursday morning, his passing leaving only memories of those brave young men from Martin County who so nobly defended the cause of the South in the early sixties. For several years, Mr. Roberson was the lone standard bearer of the Line of Gray in this county, but the infirmities of age and a complication of ailments sapped his strength, and just as he laid aside his plowshares to answer the call of Lee more than 70 years ago, he laid aside the battles of life to answer the call of his Maker just after midnight yesterday morning.

The son of the late H. Baker Roberson, the veteran lived nearly all his life in the Robersonville section. Except for that brief but hectic period when he laid aside his plow handles to shoulder a gun in behalf of the Southland, Mr. Roberson farmed until his health began to fail him several years ago. He was a strong member of the Primitive Baptist church, and leaders of that denomination are conducting the last rites this afternoon.

He is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Annie Riddick, and three sons, Willie, Thomas, and Leland Roberson, all of Robersonville. He also leaves four brothers, T. W., Ed, and A. S. Roberson, all of Robersonville, and James Roberson, of Stokes.

Seventy-two years ago this fall, Mr. Roberson, then only 15 years of age, entered the service as courier between Hamilton and Greenville. A few months later he was moved to Wilmington, and from there he joined the forces of General Hoke and saw the town of Plymouth recaptured from the Federals. Things were fairly quiet until he went to Berunda Hundred, near Petersburg, to join the forces of General Lee. There he saw the first bloodshed in the struggle, Col. John C. Lamb, brother to the late Wilson G. Lamb, of this county, losing his life in action just a few hours after Mr. Roberson reached the scene of conflict in that sector.

During the spring and summer of 1864, Mr. Roberson and his regiment continued with Lee in all his maneuvers around Richmond and Petersburg, and after a short stay on Mortar Hill, near Petersburg, Mr. Roberson and his regiment left to defend Fort Fisher. Reaching there on Christmas Day, the Federals gave them a warm reception with shell fire, but the attack failed. Three weeks later the Unionists were successful, and Mr. Roberson and his regiment evacuated the section and followed a trail to Goldsboro and Kinston. At the latter place they fought the Yankees under General Burnside. Lieutenant Theodore Hassell, son of the late Elder C. B. Hassell, was killed in this battle. Leaving the Kinston section, Mr. Roberson was captured by the Federals. (Continued on page four)

OLD SOLDIER DIES



David F. Roberson, Martin County's last Confederate veteran died at his home in Robersonville early yesterday morning at the age of 87 years.

County Cotton Crop Is One of Smallest Reported for Years

Ginnings To December 1st Are 800 Bales Behind Those Last Season

As the cotton harvesting season nears a close, the production decrease this year compared with that of last season becomes larger, a report released a day or two ago by Mrs. Luther Hardison, collector of cotton ginning reports for this county, shows. Up to the first of this month farmers in this county had ginned 3,015 bales, or 802 less than the ginnings up to the first of December last year. A good crop year would have resulted in a production in excess of the county allotment, but unfavorable weather during the growing season reversed the situation, and now many Martin farmers have excess allotments for sale. A few growers in some sections of the county exceeded their allotments, however, and are buying extra marketing certificates, it is understood.

Joe Lawson Gets New Trial On Error in Judge's Charge

Joe Lawson, Bethel white man, adjudged guilty of manslaughter by a Martin County Superior Court jury last June, was granted a new trial this week by the State Supreme Court on an appeal entered through his attorney, Elbert S. Peel. The case will probably be scheduled for trial again next March, when the killing of little Peggy Hardison and serious injury to Mrs. C. O. Godard on the Jamesville highway the 15th of November, 1934, will be reviewed once more. A new trial was granted when the court found that Judge R. Hunt

Prices So High Two Other Projects Are Discarded Entirely

Contracts Are Now Before P. W. A. Authorities For Final Approval

Thrown upon the mercy of building contractors last Wednesday afternoon, Martin County's \$100,000 school expansion program was badly battered and disfigured, and finally gained approval of local authorities but not until two projects had been eliminated in their entirety and other short-cuts had been made to hold the total expenditure down.

The bids using the lowest for comparisons, averaged around 20 per cent above the estimates, and after two projects had been eliminated entirely they were larger by slightly more than \$1,000 than the original estimates. County officials, commissioners and members of the board of education, were bitterly disappointed, and at one time they considered junking the whole program, but urgent expansion needs called for reconsideration, and contracts were let for an addition at Farm Life, a new high school building at Jamesville, a primary unit at Williamston, an eight-room colored school building with an auditorium at Robersonville, and a primary unit at Oak City.

Construction of gymnasiums at Oak City and Jamesville were forced out of the program when it was figured their costs would carry the expenditures over the appropriations by around \$20,000. The board, fully realizing the need for the buildings, delayed the elimination process until late in the evening, but when the cold money facts were considered they shifted their attention to save the remainder of the program.

More contractors entered bids than were expected, but they were all considered high. Variations were little less than astounding, one contractor bidding double the amount of another on one project, and a differential of \$5,000 or more was common from one end of the program to the other. Perspiration started rolling down the faces of the county authorities, they pulled their hair and almost sighed as the war-time prices were called out. Late in the evening the contracts awards were announced as follows:

Jamesville High School, eight-room unit, A. L. Goode, of Charlotte, \$21,950.

Williamston, four-room primary unit: A. L. Goode, Charlotte, \$12,800. The highest bid on this particular project was \$24,400.

Farm Life, addition and alterations to old building: A. L. Goode, Charlotte, \$13,200.

Robersonville, eight-room colored school with auditorium, W. L. Jewell of Sanford, \$22,750.

Oak City, four-room primary unit and sewage disposal plant, A. L. Goode, Charlotte, \$15,600.

Plumbing and heating increased the proposed expenditures by \$16,400, the Williamston project going to W. E. Dunn, of Williamston; Oak City, to Home Equipment Company, of Roanoke Rapids; Farm Life, to Harris Hardware Company, Washington; Robersonville, to C. L. Russ, of Greenville; and Jamesville, to W. M. Wiggins, of Wilson.

The general contract figures, including plumbing and heating and furniture and fixtures and architect fees call for a total expenditure of \$140,000.

(Continued on page four)