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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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CHEER BROUGHT TO MANY HOMES HERE CHRISTMAS

39 Families and 200 Children Share in Distribution Last Week

The cold bleak homes of 39 families were brightened and the lives of nearly 200 little children in this community were made happy when the Enterprise Christmas Cheer campaign went into action last Christmas Eve. Short-lived as it might have been, the campaign was considered unusually successful, and clearly indicated that the movement was well worth while this Christmas time and that it will be well worth while during the Christmases to come. Unbelievable suffering was found right here in our midst, most of it gnawing at the souls of little orphaned children. And while many homes were necessarily missed, the appreciation expressed by those families visited was sincere and great without exception.

Nearly all the homes presented pitiful circumstances, but two or three were downright more than pathetic. At one home, three of the seven children were without shoes of any kind and those worn by the others would have offered protection only on a dry summer day. One of the tots had clothes more appropriate for wear in darkest Africa rather than in enlightened America during a deep snow. A second inspection made another visit to the home urgent. The young ones and a widowed mother almost shook the hut off its blocks when they opened the gift box and the three tots walked in with brand new shoes. In another home the father was completing three months in bed, the children showing signs of privations, but every hope in the world.

These two cases are mentioned that some one would like to relieve the suffering that exists. No organized relief is available to them, and it is quite evident that any aid will be of great help. The cases are still in the Christmas Cheer file at the Enterprise office, and will be made known to any one desiring to offer individual aid, regardless of how little.

With a fairly large collection of toys, most of them second-hand that had undergone repairs in The Enterprise workshop during off-hours, and a cash subscription of \$84.23, the Enterprise force, aided by Messrs. J. C. Manning, N. K. Harrison, and D. N. Hix worked a greater part of Tuesday distributing the baskets. For the most part substantial foods were given, the little tots having their attention specifically called to the season of the year by the inclusion of a toy or two, a small quantity of mixed candies, a few nuts and raisins and an orange and an apple.

Divided among the needy ones, cases of beans, salmon, soup, breads, boxes of oranges and a barrel of apples did not overstock any pantry, and Monday of this week, plans were made to the office appealing for any food that might have been left. The distributors turning to their own homes late that Christmas Eve were called out again after supper and only left after handing out what little cash they possessed individually.

Certainly there must have been some cases overlooked, but not intentionally, and surely there were other cases that were in need, but the Christmas Cheer fund was limited. Before another Christmas season rolls around, some charitable organization would, it is sincerely believed, find it appropriate to handle such an undertaking on a larger than the one this season.

Cash donations not previously acknowledged are: J. L. Hassell, \$5; Woman's Club, \$10; J. H. Allshook, \$5 cents; J. C. Manning, \$8; and David Modlin, \$2.

For the cooperation of everyone in making the movement successful, The Enterprise extends its thanks, and readily adds that an even greater appreciation was expressed by the receivers.

T. U. Rawls Died at County Home 20th

Thomas U. Rawls, Martin County home inmate, died there on December 20, following a long period of failing health. He was born in the Bear Grass section of this county 61 years ago. Funeral services were conducted the following afternoon by Elder B. S. Cowin, and interment followed in the Biggs Roberson burial ground in Bear Grass Township.

F. H. A. Closing Local Office; Applications Go To Edenton

The Federal Housing Administration office in the Martin County courthouse has been ordered closed, effective January 1, according to information released yesterday by County Chairman George H. Harrison. Plans were made immediately to recall the secretary and office assistant, it was stated.

The field representative of the administration, Mr. J. H. McMullan, with headquarters in Edenton, will handle all applications in the future, it was stated. While arrangements have not been completed for handling the work, it is understood that Mr. McMullan himself will receive applications in Williamston one day each week. The day that Mr.

McMullan is to be in Williamston will be announced shortly, the county chairman said.

"We believe the new arrangement will prove satisfactory," Mr. Harrison said and added that anyone wishing to make application for a Federal Housing Administration loan should get in touch with him and he will advise Mr. McMullan direct.

So far the activities of the FHA have been limited in this county, no loans having been recorded to date. The apparent failure of the organization to function properly or meet the requests of deserving applicants is said to have been disappointing. A goodly number of applications are said to have been received from prospective builders in this section

1 DEAD, SEVERAL HURT IN 2 AUTO ACCIDENTS 21ST

Dick Bland, 25, Is Fatally Injured in Collision Near Hamilton

Dick Bland, 25 years old, lost his life in an automobile wreck one mile out of Hamilton on the Oak City road, Saturday evening, December 21st, bringing the total number of motor vehicle fatalities in this county to 7 for the year 1935. Bland's skull was injured, his chest crushed and a leg broken. He died a few minutes later in a Hamilton doctor's office. Russell Godard, 19, suffered a broken wrist and bruises; and Garland Godard, 12 years old, suffered a broken arm, a sprained shoulder, and a probable fracture of the pelvis bone. Linwood Knox, 21, Bob Harris, 40, and LeRoy Pitt, 35, also passengers in the 1936 model Ford belonging to Roy Edmondson, were hurt, but not badly, according to reports reaching here.

Garland Gurganus and Claiborne Godard, riding in a truck that figured in the accident, were hurt but not badly, Gurganus receiving a slight knee sprain.

Driving toward Oak City, Bland is said to have been driving the almost new car so rapidly he could not round a curve and plunged the machine into the truck that Gurganus had pulled all the way off the hard-surfaced road to his own right. The car was demolished, and the steel body was stripped from the truck, it was stated.

Later that night, C. B. Savage, manager of the A. B. C. store in Oak City, was dangerously hurt when a car without lights was backed suddenly into the road in front of him by a man named Goodrich. Savage was unable to stop or turn out to avoid the crash, it was stated. Mrs. Goodrich, accompany her husband in the Model A Ford, was painfully but not seriously hurt. Mr. Savage was thought not badly hurt at first, but peritonitis is said to have developed, and little hope was considered for his recovery at one time. Later reports, however, stated that his condition was some better and that the attending physician was more hopeful for his recovery. The young man is at his home in Oak City.

Funeral services for Mr. Bland were conducted Sunday afternoon from the home of his sister, Mrs. Raynor, by Rev. Phillips. Burial was at Hobgood.

Deer Hunters Busy As End of Season Nears

With the deer season drawing to a close today, hunters are taking every opportunity to hunt the animals. A few days back, a party brought in two from just across the river, and yesterday Pete Hall and Dick Clayton brought in two more.

Number Arrests for Drunkenness About Same as for Year Ago

No Fatal Shootings Reported and Auto Accidents Below Normal

Probably without exception, the 1935 Christmas holiday season in this county was the quietest on record, the office of the sheriff and reports over the county clearly indicating that peace and quiet were more evident than at any time in their memory. No fatal shootings were reported, the record of drunken arrests carrying about the same number of names as were on the docket last season.

The early part of the holiday season proper, last Saturday a week ago, was marred by two serious automobile accidents in the upper part of the county, but none of any consequence has been reported since. Snow-covered roads caused many cars to skid off the thoroughfares, but no one was hurt, as far as it could be learned, Highway Patrolmen Hunt and Stewart explaining that they had not received a single call since the two accidents near Hamilton and Oak City more than a week ago.

Despite extreme temperatures during a greater part of the season, no deaths from exposure or serious fires were reported.

At Williamston the volunteer fire company received two calls, one on Sunday, the 22nd, when the colored Methodist church on Cemetery St. caught fire, and again on the 26th,

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Past Week Sees Coldest Weather Here Since 1917

To Arrest All Driving With Old Tags Starting Tomorrow

Highway Patrolmen Hunt and Stewart are warning motorists that there will be no warnings after December 31 for owners to display the new 1936 State license plates on cars operating on the highways. In accordance with an act of the legislature, new license plates must appear on all cars traveling the highways. In other words, the owners who have purchased his plates and has not displayed them will be subject to arrest on and after January 1.

The legislative act also provides a minimum fine of \$10 and costs. Of course, the courts might suspend judgment, but the order makes it necessary for the patrolmen and other officers to effect the arrests.

When asked if there would not be some leniency shown since the weather has been unusually bad, and almost impossible for people to drive their cars, the patrolmen stated that it would be advisable to send to the license bureaus for their plates. No excuses will be accepted, it was stated.

River Freezes Over For Its Fourth Time Within Past Century

Nine-Inch Snowfall Recorded; 9 Degrees Lowest Temperature

With apologies to old Mark Twain, the weather in this section so far this winter is the coldest in many years, records showing that the thermometer readings so far in December, 1935, were the lowest since 1917.

Starting with a nine-inch snowfall on Sunday afternoon, December 22, the mercury started dropping, reaching a low reported at 9 degrees. Several times the mercury climbed above the freezing point, but overnight it would go down again. Then early last Sunday morning, nearly 5 more inches of snow fell, and Monday the white blanket still measured 7 inches. The Roanoke froze over just above the bridge, the bridge-keeper, Mr. Hugh Spruill, walking across and at ease. He returned on the bridge, however. The ice was reported 12 inches thick at places.

Only four times during a century has the Roanoke really frozen sufficiently to carry any great weight. In 1857, the stream was a solid mass of ice, and again in 1892 and 1893 ice clogged the stream, people living close by, and driven by the bitter cold, taking their teams and driving across the stream for firewood on the other side. During the winter of 1917 the stream froze to a depth of 12 inches or more just below where the bridge is now located. People turned out by the hundreds to skate and play on the ice, but no teams were driven across at that time.

During the present freeze, ice has blocked the stream at bends as far up as Hamilton.

Recalling the freeze in 1917, older residents state that a strange thing happened when the mercury started rising. After people had played on the ice all one day, a strong wind started blowing from the west and by the next morning there was not a block of ice of any size in the river, the strong wind apparently having ground the ice into a melting pulp.

NEW WAREHOUSE CAVES IN; \$2,000 TO \$3,000 DAMAGE

Directors To Meet During Week To Decide on Repairing

A damage estimated at between \$2,000 and \$3,000 resulted when the floor and roof of the Planters Warehouse caved in here early last week. Some damage also resulted to peanuts stored in the building, it was reported.

Reports state that the floor gave away some hours before, and that the roof, including most of that covering the new addition and a part of the old structure caved in from the weight of the snow that fell Sunday afternoon and night.

It has not been determined whether the structure was overloaded, the foundation improperly laid, or the snow was the main cause for the collapse of the building. The old part of the building was even more heavily loaded last year with stored peanuts, and the weight was successfully carried by the foundation.

Repairs to the building and other matters in connection with the collapse will be discussed at a meeting of the warehouse company directors probably some time this week, Mr. C. O. Moore, president, said yesterday morning.

The addition to the warehouse was completed only last fall at a cost of approximately \$5,000.

Efforts will be made to repair the structure as soon as possible, the company president intimated.

Sheriff Victor Meekins, of Dare County, passed through here on his way to his home after spending the holidays in Mooresville with relatives.

Few Registering With Employment Bureau

Expect Call for Men With Beginning of New School Projects

Work Will Begin Within Few Days; Held Np By Weather

Early reports coming from the county office of the State employment bureau, indicate that there are not as many people wanting jobs in this section as many believe. Since the office was opened week before last, approximately 75 men have registered for employment, Manager Gilliam pointing out that many of those were skilled workers and only about one-third were colored. However, real conditions in connection with employment in this county will hardly be uncovered until the weather modifies, and the jobless have a better opportunity to place their names on the office rolls.

There are several hundred names on file with the unemployment office, but many of them are probably inactive, the owners, in some cases no doubt having procured jobs or left the section. Regardless of whether one had registered with the district office in Edenton, it is believed advisable, especially for those who really wish to work, to register again at once. It is possible that if necessary labor cannot be

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COTTON GINNINGS

Cotton ginnings for 1935 continue to run about 1,000 bales behind those for the 1934 season, a report released for and up to December 13 shows. At that time 3,187 bales of cotton had been ginned from the 1935 crop, as compared with 4,150 bales from the 1934 crop.

The report was released last week by Mr. Luther Haridson, collector of ginning statistics in this county.

Two Robersonville Filling Stations and A.B.C. Store Robbed

Series of Daring Robberies Believed One-Man Job; Officer Fired on

A series of daring robberies were reported in the business district of Robersonville some time after midnight last Saturday. Reports reaching here stated that the Number 2 liquor store of the Martin County Beverage Control Board, the Sinclair and Texaco stations were entered and robbed, Night Officer Griffin running the robber away when an attempt was made to enter and rob the Public Oil Company station.

The liquor robbery, the first reported in this county since the control stores were opened last July, netted the robber about \$15 in cash and 14 pints of liquor. The brand of liquor mislabeled was said to have been comparatively low in price and indicated that the robber was not familiar with the better trade marks.

Breaking through a window, the robber is believed to have entered the Sinclair station first, taking a small amount of change and some cigarettes. Approximately \$17 was stolen from the cash register in the Texaco station.

When the robber—reports stating only one was seen—attempted to enter the Public Oil Station, Officer Griffin fired on the man and met a return fire.

As far as it could be learned no trace of the thief has been found, reports stating that the man was last seen running out of Robersonville.

Two Stills Captured By County Officers

Two illicit liquor stills were destroyed by Officer J. H. Roebuck and his assistant Roy Peel in the county last week. The day before Christmas, the officers trod through the snow to a plant near Hassell, where they found a 40-gallon capacity liquor still and several barrels of beer. The plant, just recently operated, was destroyed.

Last Friday, the officers destroyed a 50-gallon capacity copper still in Bear Grass Township, but the weather was apparently too cold for the operators, and the plant had been idle several days.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU

(Courtesy of Miss Effie Waldo, Hamilton, N. C.)

Health enough to make work a pleasure;
 Wealth enough to support your needs;
 Strength enough to battle with difficulties and overcome them;
 Grace enough to confess your sins and forsake them;
 Patience enough to toil until some good is accomplished;
 Charity enough to see good in your neighbor;
 Cheerfulness that shall make others glad;
 Love that shall move you to be useful and helpful;
 Faith that shall make real the things of God;
 And hope that shall remove all anxious fears concerning the future.

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