

THE ENTERPRISE

VOLUME XXXIX—NUMBER 8

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, January 28, 1936

ESTABLISHED 1899

W. T. MEADOWS DIED FRIDAY AT HIS HOME HERE

Was Pioneer In Tobacco Marketing and Cultivation In This Section

William Thomas Meadows, prominent citizen here for a quarter of a century and a pioneer in the tobacco business of Eastern Carolina, died at his home on West Main Street here last Friday evening at 6:30 o'clock, his passing marking the end of a career that had been selfishly devoted to his family and to all his fellowmen.

"Uncle Buck," as he was favorably known to thousands through his connection with the Williamston Tobacco Market as co-founder, operator and buyer, had experienced failing health for several years. Although his health forced him to retire from the business he loved and so faithfully followed for many years, he continued unusually interested in general public affairs, and especially the tobacco business in its every phase, until a day or two before his death. He suffered a stroke two years or more ago, but was able to be out at intervals until several months ago, when he was forced into confinement. He told friends a few weeks ago that he had lost virtually all his earthly possessions but rejoiced in the fact that he was prepared to answer the final command of his Maker. The end came peacefully, with members of the immediate family and the family physician at his bedside.

The son of a prominent family, Mr. Meadows was born in Oxford, Granville County, 71 years ago the 22nd of next month. He entered the tobacco business there, and later located in Rocky Mount for a short while. In 1896 he was married to Miss Valie Aiken, and moved to Williamston in 1902 to start the operation of the local tobacco market for Jim Staton. During much of his early time here, he taught and aided farmers in the cultivation of tobacco, a crop that was almost entirely new in this immediate section at that time.

After managing the operation of the market for several seasons, he accepted a position as buyer for the Export Tobacco Company. For 17 years he faithfully served that company, and during that time he proved himself a valuable friend to the farmer. His policy was one of fairness, and his ability as a tobaccoconist probably meant added thousands of dollars to the farmers of this section.

In addition to his activities as a tobaccoconist, he was vitally interested in public affairs, and for many years he served as town commissioner and treasurer of Williamston. He also interested himself in the moral and religious life of the community, giving liberally in a personal and financial way for years to the support of the local Methodist church, of which he was a member. His life was marked for its unselfishness and willingness and often he did for others without hope of reward and seldom with reward. In helping his fellowman he found happiness, and often he deprived himself that some one less fortunate than he might be helped. His untiring efforts in the promotion of the Williamston Tobacco Market no doubt signal him out as its greatest benefactor and to whom its success is primarily responsible. "Uncle Buck" was a well-known character here by his own right in that he had a friendly greeting for every one and enjoyed the friendship of all.

Besides his wife he leaves two children, Mrs. Pearl Pender and Mrs. Eloise Meadows Bennett, both of Williamston. He also leaves three grandchildren, Charles Whitley, and Marian and Joseph Pender, Jr.

Funeral services were conducted from the late home Sunday afternoon by Rev. R. R. Grant, of the local Methodist church; Rev. Jas. H. Smith, pastor of the local Baptist church; and Rev. Charles H. Dickey, of the Baptist Convention, Raleigh. Burial was in the family plot in the local cemetery.

Longest Cold Spell Of Century Is Felt Here

This section continues to shiver with no great promise of stop shivering just now. The coldest spell of the century and one of several so far this season, struck here late yesterday and last night sending the mercury to its lowest point in years. The lowest recognized reading was ten degrees above zero at this point, farmers failing to keep up with the cold when the mercury in their tobacco barn thermometers went out of sight.

Slightly warmer weather was promised by the prophets, followed by rain or snow tomorrow.

Meet To Discourage Tobacco Crop Increase in This Section

A mass meeting of Eastern Carolina farmers will be held in Greenville Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock, when ways and means of holding the tobacco acreage within the limit of the 1936 demands will be discussed and considered. N. G. Bartlett, secretary of the Eastern Carolina Chamber of Commerce, the sponsoring organization, said today. "We are not expecting any permanent legislation to be passed in time to affect this year's crop, and it is the purpose of this meeting to discourage a large acreage," Mr. Bartlett said. It is understood that large numbers of farmers are expected to be present for the meeting.

River Receding After Touching 14.8 Level

POULTRY CAR

Arrangements are virtually complete for the operation of a cooperative poultry car in this county four days next week, starting in Jamesville Tuesday. Stops will be made at Williamston Wednesday; Robersonville, Thursday, and Oak City, Friday Agent T. B. Brandon announced today.

Prices ranging around 3 to 5 cents a pound above the market in this section are in prospect, the agent announcing that a definite price list would be made public the latter part of the week.

Future loadings will depend on the success of the loadings next week, Mr. Brandon explained.

None Hurt in Auto Crash on Jamesville Highway Saturday

Third Wreck Horse-Drawn Vehicles Have Figured In On Road Recently

Automobile and truck traffic is finding it difficult to slow down to the pace set by horse-drawn vehicles on the Jamesville road. A third accident in which horse-drawn vehicles figured during the past few weeks was reported about three miles from here last Saturday.

A horse-powered vehicle and two large trucks were traveling toward Williamston that afternoon, and Miss Glendora Ange was driving her father's car toward Jamesville. One of the trucks stopped behind the cart to let the Ange car pass. The second truck, belonging to the W. I. Skinner Company, and driven by Jonah Clemons, swerved into the middle of the road when the brakes were applied and into the path of the car. A fender was torn from the automobile, and a wheel on the truck was smashed, but no one was hurt.

Driving without having applied for driver's license, Miss Ange was cited to court for a hearing next Tuesday.

The other two accidents occurred at the Sweet Water Creek bridge, one just recently and the other some time ago.

Baseball Meeting To Be Held Friday

Local baseball fans are scheduled to meet in Pete Fowden's office Friday evening of this week at 8 o'clock to map plans for operating a baseball club here this coming season. Officers will be named and other business handled, but no donations will be asked at the meeting, it was learned.

Reports indicate that Williamston will be in the Coastal loop again with strong prospects for a successful season, if plans now under consideration develop.

All baseball fans are invited to attend the meeting Friday evening.

Teachers In County Get Pay After Long Delay

After seven long weeks without pay, Martin County teachers today are receiving their salaries for the fourth school month ending today. The Christmas holidays and delay caused by bad weather and bad roads were responsible for the delayed pay day. Approximately \$12,000 are being paid the teachers and bus drivers.

LOCAL FIREMEN WERE KEPT BUSY DURING YEAR 1935

Record-Breaking Number of Calls Answered During Period by Volunteers

Williamston's volunteer firemen were much in demand during the year just closed, the records showing an average three calls each month or twice as many as were received in 1934. Despite the frequency of the demands, the firemen turned out in large numbers the whole year through, and many of the calls came during the early morning hours and when the temperatures were low. On an average, 12 of the 17 volunteers answered every call, several of the group not missing a single trip during the period.

While the fire loss, estimated at \$2,258, was the largest since 1933, and nearly four times greater than the loss for 1934, the volunteers, it is believed, made one of their best records during the past year. No substantial loss was sustained by any one property owner, and damage was held to \$5 or less in 19 of the 36 cases. Probably the most adverse luck experienced during the year was last February, when the heavy apparatus mired down in the mud on Warren Street, and the firemen could do nothing but watch a small tenant house burn down.

Shingled roofs, catching sparks from flues or chimney, accounted for 11 alarms, or nearly one-third of the number. Defective flues or chimney accounted for seven more calls, while the causes in five cases were not determined. Only one fire was traced to the cigarette.

January, March, November and December were the fire months here during the past year, the department recording five calls in each of the periods. However, not a single month passed but that the firemen were called out at least once.

The feature of the fire department records is the marked reduction in losses since 1929, or about the time the new apparatus was purchased. A review of the losses and number of calls from 1929 to 1935, inclusive, are as follows:

Year	Calls	Losses
1929	24	\$38,350
1930	24	2,421
1931	29	5,910
1932	25	2,850
1933	25	2,350
1934	17	600
1935	36	2,258
Totals	180	\$55,439

During the last four months of 1928, the company received eight calls, and the fire loss was estimated to be \$5,818.50.

Many Expected To Attend Ball Here

The President's birthday ball in Williamston Wednesday night promises to be a gala affair, reports from the arrangement committee of the Woman's Club indicate. Record crowds are expected, the arrangement group announcing that the high school gymnasium will be well heated for their comfort. A leading orchestra of the section will furnish the music.

Proceeds of the event will, for the most part, go into a fund to combat infantile paralysis. Similar events are scheduled all over the nation. As far as it could be learned, the ball at Williamston is the only one planned in this immediate section, and since most of the other balls are being held Thursday night, the one in this county is expected to attract a larger crowd. Tickets are now on sale for only a dollar, and the sale is progressing rapidly, reports state.

NO CHECKS YET

Following the distribution of several hundred peanut benefit checks to farmers in this country several weeks ago, AAA payments apparently came to a standstill. Just before the AAA was invalidated, 503 peanut benefit checks, amounting to \$7,012.74, were approved for farmers in this county. But so far the checks have not reached this county.

The county's office is preparing the last compliance records this week, but when the checks will reach the approximately 75 farmers included in the third and last group, is not known. The farmers are hopeful, however, for the authorities have stated that the money will be paid sooner or later, apparently later.

School Transportation Problem Reaching Serious Proportions in Some Sections of Martin County

SUPERIOR COURT RESUMES WORK ON CIVIL ACTIONS

Grant Motion for Non-suit In \$10,000 Case Against Railroad Company

Opening the second week of the two-weeks special term for the trial of civil cases only, the Martin County Superior Court yesterday cleared the docket for the day in regular order, Judge Moore finishing the allotted business at 3:40.

The case in which Ben Frank Little, colored, was suing the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company for \$10,000 was non-suited upon motion of the defense. Little lost a leg when he jumped from a Coast Line passenger train at Oak City about a year ago. He claimed the defendant was negligent in that the train was started before he could pay the fare of a relative to Stokes and get off. It was his contention that he boarded the train to pay the fare of the relative, but before he could see the conductor, the train started. He gave the relative a quarter and then jumped. He fell and one leg was cut off by the train wheels.

A settlement was effected for the plaintiff in the case of John A. Hardison against H. L. McLawhorn, Hardison receiving \$50 and the defendant to accept the cost in addition to that amount. The Hardison and McLawhorn cars crashed into each other on the Jamesville road some time ago, the plaintiff proving that the defendant was on the wrong side of the road.

Jos. W. Bailey received by settlement \$150 in his \$500 case against Gladstone Anthony.

Board Gets Definite Figures on Lights

More information on the proposed installation of four stop lights on Williamston's main street was gained when a special representative of the Crouse-Hinds Company went before the board of commissioners in a special session here last Friday afternoon. Definite action was postponed, Mayor Hassell explaining that the matter would likely be discussed at the next regular meeting.

The light displayed before the authorities last Friday sells for \$192.35, a representative of the local power company, Mr. R. H. Goodman, explaining that the operating cost would be around \$6 a month for each one of the signals. No estimate on the installation cost was advanced, but to purchase and install and operate the lights for the first year would be approximately \$1,200, it is believed.

Bonus Bill Is Passed Over Veto Monday

The bonus bill, calling for the distribution of more than \$2,000,000 to World War veterans became law yesterday, when President Roosevelt signed the measure after the Congress had overridden his veto. Veterans will have to file papers with their own organizations or with the veterans' administration in Washington for an exchange of their claims for the \$50 baby bonds. No cash will be available before the 15th of next June.

Martin veterans are in line to receive \$257,774, and already a number of them have applied for the cold cash due them under the bill.

Cotton Ginnings Smaller By 1,105 Bales In 1935

A reduction of more than 25 percent in the 1935 cotton crop as compared with the 1934 production was reflected in a report just released by the government through its special agent, Mr. Luther Hardison. While the exact figures are not available, it is understood the production for the county as a whole was under the 1935 allotment. In 1934 there were 4,403 bales of cotton ginned up until the present time, the number dropping to 3,298 in 1935 or a decrease of 1,105 bales. The report, while not final, is just about complete for the 1935 crop.

DEMONSTRATOR



Miss Dickie Lee Lewis, nationally known meat-canning expert, who will conduct a demonstration in the home agent's office at the courthouse Thursday, January 30, at 2 p.m. All women in the county are invited and urged to attend.

Pupils Packed Into Buses So Tightly Health Threatened

Hundreds of Parents Are Disgusted With Way System Is Handled

The school transportation problem, considered serious for some time, was aggravated in this county two weeks ago, when the experts in Raleigh assigned a new big bus to the Farm Life District to handle 107 pupils. Parents of the children riding that bus and others where conditions are about as bad are disgusted, to put it mildly, and they are of the opinion that somebody apparently does not know what the transportation of children is all about. While the particular section is, and has always been, in favor of public education, many, if not all, the parents would, in a minute, sign a petition to the authorities requesting the situation be remedied, and back it with the withdrawal of their children from school if necessary. Already a few parents are said to have refused to let their children be packed in the bus after the fashion of packing sardines in a can.

"You can't imagine how bad it is on the children," a parent said a day or two ago, and he was conservative in his condemnation of those who are responsible for such deplorable conditions. He explained that his small children returned home sick nearly every day because they are so badly crowded in the bus.

In some of the schools, the teachers are said to find it necessary to threaten the children with sticks to make them crowd together to make room for another and another and still another. One parent explained that swine are handled more advantageously than some children are hauled in this county.

Before the Christmas holidays, a small truck served the territory, but two trips were necessary. The experts reasoned that one big truck would do the job in the Farm Life district, and expenses would be reduced by the elimination of the second trip. The reasoning is just about to prove unsound, for reports indicate that the motor in the big old bus is about burned out from pulling 90 or more children over the bad roads in that district. No definite plans have been agreed upon by the school patrons in the Farm Life area to remedy the situation, but it is understood that the citizens there are planning to appeal to the next Martin County grand jury for relief.

Bad roads, it is admitted, have interrupted the operation of the buses, but good roads will not relieve the sardine fashion of packing little human beings in trucks, one parent said.

Excess Allotment Card Sale Stopped

The purchase of cards for the excess marketing of tobacco is no longer required, according to instructions coming out of Washington a few days ago. Money for purchases made since January 8 will likely be refunded, it was stated.

For farmers in this county, the ruling is a bit late, to be sure. However, agricultural authorities explain that the price of tobacco has decreased since January 8, that the man who purchased excess allotments received a higher price for his tobacco before that time than the farmers now marketing their tobacco are receiving.

Cotton sales certificates are still required in the marketing of that crop, it was learned from the office of the county agent this week.

Mayor Hassell To Address Juniors At Robersonville

John L. Hassell, Williamston mayor, will address a meeting of the Junior Order in Hurst Hall, Robersonville, tonight at 8 o'clock, and members of the organization from several councils in this section are planning to attend, including ten or more from here, it was said.

Attorney E. S. Peel is scheduled to address a meeting of the Williamston council here Thursday evening at 8 o'clock, it was announced.

Tug Boat Raised From Bottom of Roanoke River

The small tug boat that sunk in the Roanoke below here last week has been refloated, and the craft is now at the docks of the National Handle Company, its owners, in Plymouth, for repairs. The crew was saved when the boat struck a submerged log and sank.