

THE ENTERPRISE

VOLUME XXXIX—NUMBER 103 Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, For Friday, December 25, 1936 ESTABLISHED 1899

ONLY SIX CASES TRIED IN COUNTY COURT TUESDAY

First Session of Court Since December 8; To Change Day To Monday

Judge H. O. Peel handled six cases in the county court Tuesday, the docket being unusually small, considering the fact that it was the first sitting of the court since the 8th of this month.

Beginning in January, the court will hold its weekly sessions each Monday, the clerk explaining that the change is being made to accommodate members of the legislature. Ordinarily the legislators are at home every Monday, and by holding the courts on that day, it will be unnecessary to continue members of the cases. The Monday schedule will be followed for about six months, with the possibility that it will become permanent.

Cases disposed of Tuesday are as follows: Judgment was suspended upon payment of the cost in the case charging Bertha Rives with violating the liquor laws.

A. D. Bazemore, charged with reckless and drunken automobile driving, was fined \$50, taxed with the cost of the case and had his driving license revoked for one year.

Charged with violating the liquor laws, Clinto Reeves and Herbert Reeves were found guilty, the court continuing prayer for judgment.

Charged with drunken driving, Louis Basnight was fined \$50, taxed with the case costs and had his license to operate a motor vehicle revoked for one year.

Herbert Brown, charged with conspiracy to commit larceny, was sentenced to the roads for three months. James Walston and Jack Lanier, defendants in the case, were found not guilty.

Found guilty of simple assault, Grover Dickens was sentenced to the roads for 60 days.

Necessity of Old-Age Assistance Stressed In Actuary's Speech

Figures Show Few Make Provision for Age and Unemployment

Richmond, Va.—With great numbers of American workers saving in sufficient funds to provide for their retirement, measures such as are contained in the social security act are essential, William R. Williamson, actuarial consultant for the Social Security Board, said here recently in an address before the Virginia Bankers Association.



SHORTEST DAY

Monday of this week, marking the official beginning of winter, was the shortest day of the year, the sun rising at 7:04 and setting at 4:52. According to the calendar makers, winter began at 7:20 that evening to hold forth until March 20. Last winter, it is and will long be remembered, was a severe one and there is hope the one now upon us will not be so bad.

750 APPLICATIONS ARE FILED FOR SOIL PAYMENTS

Approximately 200 More Being Rushed To State Office for Approval

Between 700 and 800 applications for soil conservation payments have been forwarded to Raleigh for Martin County farmers by the office of the county agent, and work on the approximately 200 remaining ones is being rushed to completion, it was learned.

Reports from Raleigh state that this county is well advanced with its applications, nearly all others having hardly more than started sending in the applications for the soil conservation payments. Every one of the 700 and more applications entered at Raleigh have been approved and sent on to Washington, where checks will be drawn for the farmers.

There are approximately 250 farmers in this county who failed to comply with the provisions of the soil conservation act, and they will not be eligible to participate in the distribution of the benefit payments.

VanDyke To Build \$15,000 Store Here

Plans for the construction of a \$15,000 store building for the VanDyke Furniture Company on Main Street here were announced complete this week, Mr. Garland Woolard, the manager, stating that work on the building would be started early next spring and possibly before that time.

The building is to be located on the lot between the Atlantic Hotel and the Guaranty Bank & Trust Co. on Main Street. It will be 41 feet and a depth of about 120 feet, Mr. Woolard said.

The project is one of several planned for the coming year, arrangements now pending for the construction of a number of homes here during 1937. Present indications point to much building in Williamston during the new year.

AROUND 1,000 NEW PLATES BOUGHT BY AUTO OWNERS

Operators of Cars Warned No Extension of Time Will Be Granted

Warned there would be no extension allowed and that the use of old numbers after the first of the year would subject operators to arrest and prosecution, automobile owners in this section are buying 1937 State automobile license tags just about twice as rapidly as they did a year ago, reports from the bureau in the Williamston Motor Company building this week indicated. Approximately 1,000 tags have already been sold, and by Friday of next week it is believed most cars will have the black and yellow plates attached.

Members of the highway patrol have been instructed to arrest all drivers whose cars carry old tags after Thursday of next week. No excuses will be accepted, the patrol members stating that the new tags will be displayed on the very first day of the year if the cars are operated. Patrolmen will not be allowed to take money for plates except in those cases where the district license bureau is unable to issue the plates, it was clearly pointed out by W. S. Hunt, patrolman who is stationed here.

Credit Group Will Have Office Here

A branch office of the Washington Production Credit Association will be opened here the first of next month, according to information released this week by Messrs. Cartstarnen and Harrison, employees of the association. Complete details for opening the branch have not been effected, Mr. Harrison stating that files containing records of all loans made in this county would probably be transferred from Washington here the latter part of next week or the early part of the following week.

Cotton Ginnings Reach New High

Cotton ginnings reached a new high record in this county this year, for the first time in several seasons, according to a report released this week by the Bureau of the Census, through its special agent, Mr. Luther Harrison, of Jamesville. Up to the first of this month, 3,703 bales of cotton had been ginned from the 1936 crop, as compared with 3,015 bales ginned from the 1935 crops up to December 1.

HOLIDAY SATURDAY

The attention of the public is again called to the general holiday that will be observed by local stores and other business houses Saturday of this week. Coming between Christmas Day and Sunday, the 26th was declared a holiday by signed agreement circulated among local business houses on Monday of this week. The arrangement will make possible a long holiday for those who seldom have an opportunity to get away from their regular tasks.

Stores in near-by towns and over the state generally are suspending business also.

TOBACCO SHORT COURSE LIKELY TO DRAW MANY

Will Be Held In Raleigh Third Week of Next Month

Hundreds of tobacco growers are expected to flock to State College for the tobacco short course which will be held January 18-22.

The work will consist of lectures and discussions supplemented by laboratory practice and demonstrations, says Dr. J. B. Cotner, professor of plant breeding at State College.

The morning programs will be devoted to lectures, demonstrations, and discussions with the afternoons given over to practice in grading tobacco. Those enrolled for the course will be given actual practice in grading work.

No tuition will be charged for the short course, but a fee of \$1 will be made for registration and a certificate of attendance, Dr. Cotner says.

Christmas Services at Episcopal Churches

Church of the Advent
Rev. E. F. Moseley, rector.
Christmas Eve, 11:30 p. m., Choral Eucharist.
Christmas Day, 11 a. m., Holy Communion.
St. Martin's, Hamilton
Christmas Day, 7 p. m., Evening prayer and Christmas hymns.

RECORDS SHOW DEATH PENALTY NOT USED OFTEN

Georgia Youth Is First To Get Death Sentence Since 1929

Few people have been convicted of capital crimes, and still fewer have paid with their lives for committing such crimes in this county during the past quarter of a century, a hurried review of the court records in Clerk L. B. Wynne's office shows.

Since the grim business of taking lives was shifted from the county seats about a quarter of a century ago, it is understood that only one man, Brad Bagley, colored, paid with his life for the murder of Policeman Billie White in Williamston. Several have been sentenced to die, but they escaped the supreme punishment in one way or another.

Bagley was one of the first, if not the first man, electrocuted at the State prison. The records of his trial and execution do not agree. T. P. Sale, warden of the prison at the time the man was executed apparently erring in filing in the date. Bagley was tried at the September, 1911, term of Martin County Superior court for the murder, and sentenced by Judge Charles M. Cooke to die by electrocution. The certificate of electrocution is under date of Friday, May 17, 1911, or about three months before he was tried and convicted of the crime he committed. W. Thomas Bost, veteran newspaper man, who has missed only a few of the executions in Raleigh, was one of the 12 men signing the certificate of execution.

John Sawyer, who is understood now to be petitioning for a parole, was sentenced in Martin Superior Court in September, 1929, to die for the murder of J. L. Britton, near Everetts, on July 26, 1929. He was the last man sentenced to die in this county until A. W. Watson was convicted in the court last week. Sawyer was reported to have been declared insane and escaped the death chair.

Critically Hurt When Hit By Car Tuesday Night

Dawson Manning, 60-year-old Robersonville man, was critically and possibly fatally hurt Tuesday evening about 7 o'clock when he was struck by an automobile driven by J. H. James, also of Robersonville. Manning is said to have stepped into the street suddenly near the Robersonville grammar school building, and it was impossible for Mr. James to avoid striking him, according to reports reaching here shortly after the accident.

Mrs. Hattie Ellis Dies Tuesday Night

Mrs. Hattie Ellis, widow of Joshua Ellis, died at her home in Griffins Township Tuesday afternoon shortly after 5 o'clock from an attack of pneumonia suffered the Thursday before. She was 67 years old and a life-long resident of the Farm Life community.

Mrs. Ellis was Miss Hattie Moore before her marriage to Mr. Ellis who died quite a number of years ago. She was highly respected by all who knew her and had many friends in that section of the county. She was a faithful member of the Primitive Baptist church for a long number of years, and was a thoughtful and good neighbor.

Funeral services will be conducted at the home Wednesday afternoon, and interment will follow in the family plot nearby.

Report Expected Soon On Boundary Dispute

SEND GREETINGS

Appreciative of the patronage accorded them and desiring to offer a token of good will, local merchants and other business firms here are extending greetings to all people of this section through the columns of this paper today.

LUCKS' LAWYER SEEKING WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS

Probable Demand for Hearing Will Be Made for Him and Wife

Habeas corpus proceedings were being considered late Tuesday in the case against Al Lucks, arrested in Robersonville on the 10th of this month for allegedly impersonating officers. Milton Smith, New York attorney, is understood to have advised Lucks that he would start the proceedings about that time in an effort to force a hearing in the case. It is probable that a hearing will also be demanded for Lucks' wife, who also continues in the Martin jail.

A Federal warrant is being prepared and is expected to reach here shortly. The nature of the charges was not disclosed, however. Federal agents were to have the warrant or warrants drawn in Florida and sent here for serving, but some unforeseen happening delayed the action.

To Distribute Toys On Christmas Eve

Arrangements are just about complete for the distribution of hundreds of second-hand toys, confections, food, fruits, and a few articles of clothing to the needy families of this community on Christmas Eve. Hundreds of appeals have been received, and it will be impossible for the Christmas Cheer drive to reach all of them, but every effort will be made to aid the most destitute cases.

Local people have responded liberally to the call made in behalf of the less fortunate, and those participating in the movement are assured that some needy urchin will bubble over with happiness that could hardly be expected this Christmas time.

Dallas, Frank, of the Sanitary Grocery, materially aided the movement when he placed an empty barrel in his store and asked anyone caring to do so to leave various articles in it. Almost a full barrel of articles was collected. A \$1 cash donation was made by W. H. Cartstarnen and Mrs. Urbin Rogers contributed \$2 since other donations were acknowledged.

Baptists Announce Services for Sunday

The Sunday school will convene at the usual hour, 9:45 o'clock Sunday morning, followed by regular worship at 11 a. m. No evening service will be held in the Baptist church, the pastor, Rev. James H. Smith, announced. The B. T. U. meets at the usual hour.

Taking of Evidence Is Completed Here At Session Monday

Tobe Connor, of Wilson, Is Preparing Terms of Settlement

A settlement in the boundary line controversy between Martin and Beaufort Counties is expected almost momentarily, the commission named some time ago to investigate the matter having completed the taking of evidence early this week. A report carrying a final decision is now being prepared by Attorney Tobe Connor, of Wilson, one of the three members of the commission, but just what the group did in locating the line could not be learned.

Evidence was offered by this county during a greater part of last Monday, the oral testimony placing the line at what is known as the second cross-ties in the old Jamesville and Washington tract. There is some doubt as to whether the evidence offered or not, or much of it will be acceptable in accordance with the law. However, no day has been found to say that in the case it is understood.

The commission, Messrs. Connor, J. B. Trotter, of Martin, and William B. Rodman, jr. of Beaufort, last month determined the location of the line from Turkey Swamp, where it joins Pitt, to the Jamesville and Washington Road. No change in the line to that point was made, both counties agreeing to the location. However, from that point the Beaufort representative maintained the line should hold well to the left, giving the neighbor county between 800 and 1,000 acres of timberland now owned by L. S. Thompson, of Wisconsin, and which are entered on the tax books of this county.

It is understood that both counties have agreed to accept the decision of the commission, and that no appeal will be considered.

During the early part of the last century, the state legislature planned to have the boundary between the two counties located, and legislation was passed authorizing the appointment of a commission to handle the task. No commission was ever appointed, and no legal action was ever taken to locate the line until Beaufort interests made a claim to hundreds of acres in the old J. and W. tract and a commission was named.

Credit Association To Hold Annual Meet January 20

All Members Are Urged To Attend Sessions at Williamston

The annual meeting of the Washington Production Credit Association will be held in Williamston at the Martin County courthouse on Wednesday morning, January 20, 1937, at 10 o'clock, according to an announcement by J. B. Patrick, president of the association, who states that every member of the association is expected to be present this year.

At the annual meeting complete and detailed reports will be made by officers of the association on its operations this year, directors will be elected, and plans made for continuing the efficient short-term credit service the association has been offering the farmers of this section.

Last year there was a splendid attendance upon the annual meeting and this year Mr. Patrick says the association hopes that every member will be present. He says that the officers of the association will not be satisfied with anything short of a 100 per cent attendance.

If there is any question about the operations of the association or any information about the short-term credit service which the association offers that is desired by anyone it will be supplied at the annual meeting of the association.

The Washington Production Credit Association serves Beaufort, Martin, Washington, Tyrrell and Hyde Counties, and this year made 617 loans for a total of \$366,781.