

Watch the Label on Your Paper, as it Carries the Date Your Subscription Expires.

THE ENTERPRISE

Advertisers Will Find Our Columns a Labyrinth to Over 1,000 Names of Martin County.

VOLUME XL—NUMBER 32

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, April 20, 1937

ESTABLISHED 1899

FEWER BIRTHS MORE DEATHS IN COUNTY IN 1936

Death Rate Shows Increase During 1936 Over the Previous Year

The Martin County birth and death rates for 1936 show a very noticeable trend toward closing the gap between them, the trend being based on vital statistics recorded for 1935 and 1936. The number of births decreased but little, but there was a striking increase in the number of deaths last year over the number in 1935. The birth rate dropped only a fraction—33 to almost 32 per 1,000 of population—but the death rate showed an increase of 3.4 persons per 1,000 population. In 1935 there were 786 births and 182 deaths, as compared with 777 births and 261 deaths in 1936. There were 22 stillbirths and 95 illegitimate births. There were 25 untimely deaths, including 6 homicides, 2 suicides and 10 on the highways.

Births were divided among the races as follows: White, 349; and colored, 428. There were 106 deaths among the white and 155 deaths among the colored population. Eighty-seven of the 95 illegitimate births were chargeable to the colored population and were centered as follows: Williamston, town and township, 35; Robersonville Township, 20; Hamilton Township, 13; and Goose Nest, 9. Williams Township had only 1 illegitimate birth recorded, and in Griffins, 4 of the 9 colored births were illegitimate. Griffins, Bear Grass, Cross Roads, Poplar Point and Goose Nest reported no illegitimate births among their white population.

Pneumonia was the one main cause for deaths, 40 people dying of it in 1936. Apoplexy, cerebral hemorrhages and paralysis took a combined total of 48 lives. There were 14 tuberculosis deaths, 2 from malaria, 9 from cancer, and 15 from heart trouble. Causes of deaths were unknown in 28 cases.

There are marked variations in some of the township records for the two years. Jamesville reported about the same number of births for 1935 and 1936, but the number of deaths in 1936 were more than double the number in 1935. Williams reports 10 fewer births and 24 fewer deaths in 1936, compared with 1935. Griffins and Cross Roads were the only two districts to report an increase in births and a decrease in deaths. Hamilton showed the largest gain in births, but its death rate in 1936 was almost twice as large as it was in 1935.

The following table shows the white and colored births and total number for 1936 and 1935.

| | Total | |
|---------------|-------|------|
| | Wh. | Col. |
| Jamesville | 35 | 74 |
| Williams | 21 | 35 |
| Griffins | 25 | 34 |
| Bear Grass | 44 | 67 |
| Williamston | 70 | 165 |
| Cross Roads | 27 | 52 |
| Robersonville | 51 | 128 |
| Poplar Point | 19 | 42 |
| Hamilton | 30 | 84 |
| Goose Nest | 27 | 96 |
| Totals | 349 | 428 |

The following table shows the number of deaths by races and the totals for 1936 and 1935.

| | Total | |
|---------------|-------|------|
| | Wh. | Col. |
| Jamesville | 11 | 31 |
| Williams | 5 | 11 |
| Griffins | 3 | 6 |
| Bear Grass | 14 | 4 |
| Williamston | 15 | 60 |
| Cross Roads | 6 | 1 |
| Robersonville | 26 | 46 |
| Poplar Point | 4 | 10 |
| Hamilton | 8 | 23 |
| Goose Nest | 14 | 24 |
| Totals | 106 | 155 |

Resume Work on Legion Hut Here

Stopped when funds were exhausted several months ago, work on the John Walton Hassell American Legion Post hut on Watts Street here was resumed yesterday, members of the legion and a number of friends donating material and their services. H. U. Peel, Bear Grass Township farmer, headed the workers yesterday, and other crews are taking hold where he left off.

Building plans have been materially changed, Mr. Peel explained. The plan to construct the hut with logs has been abandoned, Mr. Peel stating that the construction would be of regular milled lumber. The building, with its four rooms, small stage and auditorium, will have the dimensions originally planned. Work on the structure will be rushed to completion.

Varying Progress in Property Listing Reported by Districts

While property listing has not gotten underway in at least one township and is advancing slowly in one or two others, most of the districts in the county are reporting a decided increase in the tax activities during the past few days. Two townships, Goose Nest and Robersonville, are over one-third completed, and Williamston had 25 per cent of its property on the books last Saturday.

Reliable reports indicate that personal property values will show no loss in any of the townships where the listing work is fairly well advanced and that sizeable gains are expected in a majority of cases. The real estate values are expected to

reflect a sizeable increase in at least two districts and more than hold their own in the remaining eight.

Revaluation work has not been started, but the list-takers are recording the necessary information, and the revaluation boards will start their work shortly in most of the townships. Tax Supervisor Clarence Stallings is keeping a close connection with the work over the county and is urging a uniform revaluation. It is understood that the lists will be subject to close study by the authorities, and that there may be some changes effected if they are found necessary.

\$65,000 Suits Promise To Continue All Week

SCHOOL LEADER



The Classroom Teachers organization of the Greenville city schools held a meeting last week and unanimously endorsed Junius H. Ross, superintendent of the Greenville schools, for the office of the N. C. Education Association. The election will take place at the state meeting of the association in Durham Friday of this week.

Asa J. Manning Is Seriously Injured

His right arm almost severed at the wrist, Asa J. Manning, operator of the Sinclair Service Station here, was reported to be getting along as well as could be expected, reports from a Washington hospital stated today. It is uncertain just how much use he will have of his hand, but it is hoped that he can use the two smaller fingers and thumb at least. Accidentally cut shortly after the noon hour, the young man was rushed to the hospital after receiving first-aid treatment here. He was on the operating table the greater part of five hours, hospital doctors making every effort to restore the use of his hand.

Manning was replacing the glass in the headlight of a Dodge car, when it broke and his arm was forced down on the sharp edge. He lost much blood but, despite his weakened condition, he is getting along as well as could be expected under the circumstances. He is expected home within a few days, but it will be some time before he will be able to return to his work.

Two Local Young Men Slightly Hurt in Accident

John Hatton Gurganus and Hubert (Puddin') Cooke, local young men, each received a knot on his head, but were not at all seriously hurt when their car, crowded off the highway between here and Windsor early last Sunday evening, crashed into a filling station. Damage, estimated at \$75, was done to the car.

Cooke, driver of his own car, was passing another car when the driver of the second machine started turning into the filling station and forced him into an iron post to the right side of the road.

Condition of S. C. Peel Remains Unchanged

The condition of Mr. S. Collins Peel, ill with pneumonia at his home on Watts Street here for two weeks, was reported today to be about the same as it has been for the past few days. The reports stated that his condition was quite critical, but that a change for the better was hoped for within the next 12 to 18 hours.

Outgrowth of Auto And Truck Collision In Which 2 Men Died

Plaintiff Rests Case Shortly Before Noon; Dismissal Motion Is Denied

After granting a divorce and clearing one or two other minor cases from the docket, the Martin County Superior Court yesterday afternoon pulled from its near-ancient files the \$50,000 Leavister and the \$15,000 Andrews damage suits against J. Lloyd Corey and started a trial that promises to last all the week, including Saturday, barring blow-ups or blow-outs.

The case, originating back in September, 1934, when John Leavister and Marshall Andrews, two young white men, were killed in a truck-car accident, near Robersonville, was getting so old that considerable time was required getting the whistles off and getting the court machine hopper-oiled and moving.

Only one member of the regular jury was acceptable to the ultra-particular group of six lawyers—four for the plaintiffs and two for the defense. A special venire of 24 men, called in from Goose Nest, Jamesville and Bear Grass Townships, was exhausted, leaving one needed. Several visitors, coming to town in their work clothes, were trapped by Sheriff Roebuck at the direction of the court, and Clarence Wallace, Jamesville man, got the 12th seat. More than an hour was spent challenging the appointed candidates for jury service.

Considerable time was spent reading the complaints and answers, but before the court adjourned at 5 o'clock it had heard the testimony of two witnesses. Miss Jessie Mae Holloman, one of the occupants in the death car, is training for a nurse in a Baltimore hospital and could not be present. Her written testimony was read, and L. T. Yarborough, character witness for the plaintiff Leavister, was the last to take the stand Monday afternoon.

After offering the evidence of four witnesses this morning, the plaintiffs rested their case shortly before noon. Attorney J. C. Smith, for the defense, asked for a non-suit, but the request was denied. Mrs. Carrie Overton, formerly Miss Carrie Williams before her recent marriage and a passenger in the death car; Geo. Ward, farmer living near the scene of the wreck; Mrs. Roy Andrews, mother of one of the boys killed; and H. F. Leavister, father of John Leavister who lost his life in the accident, were placed on the stand by the plaintiffs this morning.

The defense has eight or nine witnesses and it should complete its testimony some time tomorrow, if not before, court observers stating that it might be possible for the case to reach the jury sometime late Thursday.

The names of the jurymen are: J. H. Bailey, J. S. Ayers, Jr., H. Z. Ryan, M. T. Gardner, P. V. Rawls, M. D. Beach, W. S. Rhodes, A. L. Keel, W. C. Wallace, R. E. Downs, Joe Perry and J. W. Harris.

The \$65,000 suits were tried by Judge Clayton Moore two years ago last month. The trial went the limit that time; J. Calvin Smith, attorney for the defense, got all wrapped up in his speech to the jury and lost his false teeth. Judge Moore set aside the \$400 jury verdict. The case was continued for one reason or another until last September, when it was again called for trial by Judge Henry A. Grady. After working on it several hours, the judge continued

(Continued on the back page)

Tooth Infection Is Cause for Death of Eight-Year-Old Boy

Funeral Held for Lucian G. Peel, 8 Years Old, At Macedonia Sunday

Lucian Gaylord Peel, 8 years old, and the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Lucian G. Peel, of Corey's Cross Roads in Bear Grass Township, this county, died in a Washington hospital last Friday morning following an illness of a few days. He suffered an attack of pneumonia, but was recovering when a tooth infection developed blood poisoning and caused his death.

The little fellow was very likeable and had many friends in the school here, where he was a member of the second grade. Polite, thoughtful and courteous, he had not missed a single day in school until he was taken ill. His death was the first in a family of 47, that number including his grandparents, uncles and aunts and first cousins.

The last rites, bringing a deep sadness to the entire community, were held in the church at Macedonia Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by Revs. D. W. Davis and John L. Goff. The church was crowded to overflowing, and the attendance upon the services was said to be the largest ever known in this county for one so young. Interment was in the cemetery of his mother's relatives, near Dardens.

Martins Have Player Who Once Stole Four Bases in One Inning

Ace Villepique Accomplished Feat In Arkansas League Back in 1935

(The following article was prepared in the office of the publicity department of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, Durham, the information being taken from official records on file there.)

Ace Villepique, one of the young outfielders brought to Williamston by Manager Art Hauger, has an entry in the record books of baseball which few, if any, professional performers can match.

While playing with Bentonville of the Arkansas State League in 1935, the Ace stole four bases in one inning. That's quite a feat, for three is the maximum which a player can pilfer in any one turn at bat. No one has yet invented a way to steal first.

Villepique's team scored a 24-to-4 victory over Fayetteville that afternoon, and in the fifth inning went on a spree that netted nine runs. Thirteen bases were stolen by the winning club, and in the round when Ace made his notable record, he batted twice and got on each time. He stole second twice and third and home once each.

Ace batted .295 that year, his first season in professional baseball, and stole 23 bases. While he was accorded honorable mention for a berth on the league all-star team, he was nosed out of a place in the outfield.

Last spring, Hauger took over the management of the Bentonville entry and inherited Villepique for his outfield. The Ace improved under his new pilot and at the end of the year had a .310 batting average to show for his summer's efforts. The scribes of the loop took cognizance of his improvement and voted to place him in right field on the league's annual all-star team.

When Hauger made a switch that brought him to the pilot's seat of the Williamston Martins, he was fortunate in that several of the players under him last year were available for the Coastal Plain season. Ace was one of the best, and Hauger expects him to have a banner year during the 1937 campaign.

In the Ban Johnson League of Kansas City, a strong amateur loop named in honor of the late president of the American League, Villepique pitched and played first base. In 1934 he was advised to switch to the outfield and, taking the tip, he has remained there ever since.

Born of French parentage in Topeka, Kan., he will be 22 years old on June 26. He is a 6-footer with 180 pounds of heft and is remarkably fast for one of his build. He can bat from either side of the plate but does his throwing with his right arm.

With two years of professional baseball under his belt, he should be one of the leading gardeners of the Plains wheel, and his speed and cunning on the sacks make him a threat as the No. 1 baserunner.

Full-Time Health Program for County Will Be Considered at Health Board Meet Wednesday

Martins Play First Exhibition With Collegians Wednesday

Manager Art Hauger's wandering Martins will make their pre-season debut here tomorrow afternoon at 3:30 o'clock when they meet the strong Campbell College team in an exhibition eye-opener. Station assignments, calculated to be more or less permanent with one or two exceptions, were announced this afternoon by Skipper Hauger for the contest tomorrow. Activities on the field tomorrow will have much to do with the final team selections that are to be made soon.

All positions on the team are filled by regular candidates except the shortstop and "Alabama" McCay will take that spot temporarily. Rollins will start on the mound for the Martins in the exhibition contest tomorrow. Manager

Hauger holding Strunk, Grant and Fuller at hand for pitching work. Charlie Stevens will be on first, Steve Lakotas on second, Diem on third, Dick behind the bat. Stan Hodge will hold the left-field position, Ace Villepique in center and Lewis in right.

Next Sunday afternoon, the Martins are slated to meet Portsmouth's Seaboard Red Sox here. Manager Goodmon stating that other exhibition games are pending.

"Slim" Gardner found his way up from Jamesville yesterday and took his first work outs with the aggregation. Howard Earp, candidate for the short-stop position is due here this week. Stradel, another candidate for short-stop territory is expected any day.

Believed Service To Be Established If Report Is Favorable

Generally Believed Health Board Will Unanimously Favor All-time Service

The proposed establishment of an all-time public health service for this county will be discussed by members of the Martin County Board of Health in called session here tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock, Chairman J. E. Pope announced today. While the board has no power to establish the service, the meeting tomorrow is almost certain determine action by the county commissioners. If the health group approves the plan at its meeting tomorrow, it is believed the commissioners will favor the establishment of the department at a meeting to be called during the early part of next month.

The full board has not committed itself, but it is believed that the county health authorities will unanimously approve the plan. Considerable interest has been advanced by the general public toward having the service created, but no delegations are scheduled to appear before the meeting tomorrow. Interested citizens are expected to go before a joint meeting of the board of health and county commissioners some time in May, provided, of course, the meeting tomorrow approves the establishment of an all-time health department.

Members of the board are: J. E. Pope, chairman; J. C. Manning, J. L. Hassell, Drs. W. C. Mercer, V. A. Ward and J. S. Rhodes.

Endorsing the proposed full-time health service, Dr. J. H. Saunders, health officer for the county, stated a few days ago that while he would lose the small salary he now receives from the county, he could not afford to stand in the way of a service so badly needed by the people of his county. It is his belief that an all-time department will accomplish much for the people and that the returns would offset the cost many times.

Band Boys Leave Thursday For Contest In Greensboro

Accompanied by their instructor, Mrs. Aiken, 25 members of the local high school band will leave here Thursday morning at 8 o'clock in a chartered bus for Greensboro, where they will compete in a state-wide contest. Hundreds of band members and hundreds of other young musicians are going into Greensboro this week for the event.

On their return trip Friday, the band boys will stop in Durham to participate in the North Carolina Education Association program that evening.

Auctioneer on Local Mart Dies Suddenly in Kentucky

Charles Highfield, auctioneer on the local tobacco market, fell dead in Eminence, Ky., last Saturday, the victim of a heart attack. Mr. Highfield, a native of New Castle, Ky., had auctioneered on the Robersonville tobacco market two years before coming here to continue that work with Mr. Holt Evans. Funeral services and burial will be at his home in New Castle this afternoon. He is survived by his widow, who was formerly Miss Frances Ross, of Robersonville.

Surgical Instruments and Car Stolen from Doctor

The Chevrolet coupe, belonging to Dr. J. S. Rhodes was stolen from his garage here early last Saturday morning. In addition to the car, the thief stole costly surgical instruments that were in the machine at the time. Insurance was carried on the car, but none on the instruments. None of the stolen property has been recovered.

Farm Life Seniors To Give Play There Friday Night

The Farm Life Senior Class play, "Lighthouse Nan," will be presented in the school auditorium Friday evening, April 23, at 8 o'clock. There will be no admission charge. The cast, including the entire graduating class, is under the direction of their home-room teacher, Miss Selma Gurganus.

Largest Run Herring In Years Is Reported

Hauls of 20,000 Are Made by Fisheries; Few Shad and Rock

Approximately 100,000 Of The Fish Taken Monday At Jamesville Plant

Equalling, if not surpassing, all records, fishery operators yesterday and this morning were dipping herring from the Roanoke at Jamesville by the twenty-thousands. The stream is teeming with millions of the fish, and even operators working on a small scale are taking the fish in by the thousands. Fishing machines have sunk from the weight of their catches, the activities on the stream reminding one of the heavy run of herring back in 1917.

Stuart Ange, an employee of the Jamesville fishery for around 40 years, said this morning that the catches of only one season, 1917, even approached those made yesterday and today. The capacity of the plant is taxed to the limit, and net operations are delayed for hours while the thousands of fish are prepared and packed. Twenty thousand of the fish were sold right off the battery yesterday, the entire catch for the day nearing the 100,000 mark, or about one-half the number that could have been taken if the plant could have handled them.

Starting operations this morning about 6 o'clock, the owner had the battery hip-deep in fish 45 minutes later. Sufficient labor was not available to handle the catch and netting operations were temporarily suspended. Yesterday not more than a half dozen "hauls" were made, and in handling each of them the huge seine had to be sectionalized several times. The net was "cut," or sectionalized, nine times this morning when certainly not less than 20,000 of the fish were dumped on the battery.

Comparatively small catches had been made up to yesterday, but the Jamesville plant owner, Mr. C. C. Fleming, said last Saturday that heavy runs were expected the early part of this week. He did not anticipate such large catches, however.

The shad have all but disappeared from the Roanoke, and few of any type fish are being taken other than the herring. One small rock, a big carp and a small catfish were taken early today, and fishing operations all day yesterday netted only three small shad and a rock or two other than the thousands of herring, which are larger than usual.

Markets are holding up well, and sales are being made right off the battery at \$5-a-thousand. The prepared fish are bringing from \$8 to \$10 per 1,000.

Hundreds of fishermen, using small dip nets, are taking large quantities of herring from the river at this point, and rock are beginning to run here in fair numbers.

Unfavorable seasons have been experienced for the past several years, but present indications point to unusually successful operations this season.

Pageant Will Be Feature at State Teacher Meeting

Local High School Band To Take Part in Program Friday Evening

The outstanding feature of the annual meeting of North Carolina's public school teachers, which convenes in Durham on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week, will be "The Quest," an historical pageant and masque commemorating the centennial of public education in North Carolina, to be presented in Duke University stadium on Friday night, April 23, at 7:30.

A total of 3,500 costumed players from the various schools of the state and 1,200 high school musicians, among whom will be the membership of the Williamston High School band, will present a story of the development of the public schools in the state, which must make a lasting impression of power and beauty upon the thousands of teachers and friends of the free-school system. The script for the pageant was written by students and teachers of the schools and colleges of the state under the supervision of Dr. Frederick Koch, professor of dramatic literature at the University of North Carolina, and a whole year of preliminary work has gone into the preparations for the actual presentation. Production has been placed in the hands of Miss Edith Russell, of Asheville, who is being assisted by dramatic teachers in the high schools. The whole of the large stadium will comprise the pageant field, at the open end of which will rise the principal stage, a massive architectural setting 40 feet in height. Upon its various levels and towers, players in the pageant will be seen during the two-hour performance.

The story of the pageant is an inspiring one because it reveals the far beginnings of the system of free education and traces the development of those early efforts into the extensive state system of today which attempts to provide equal education opportunity for nearly a million children. The principal divisions of the pageant are as follows:

- Part 1: The Tradition (History 1695-1837).
- Part 2: North Carolina's Hundred Years of Public School Education (1837-1937).
- Part 3: A Symbolism of the Future (an attempt to show how the school will meet the needs of the future).

Native of County Died Last Week at Petersburg Home

Grover Rogers, native of this county, died at his home in Petersburg last Saturday, funeral services following in the home and burial in a cemetery there.

Mr. Rogers was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Rogers. He moved with his parents to the Virginia City about 25 years ago. He leaves, besides members of his immediate family, a number of relatives in this county.