

**THE ENTERPRISE**  
Published Every Tuesday and Friday by the  
**ENTERPRISE PUBLISHING CO.**  
WILLIAMSTON, NORTH CAROLINA

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Entered at the post office in Williamston, N. C., as second-class matter under the act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Address all communications to The Enterprise and not individual members of the firm.

Tuesday, April 20, 1937

**A Problem**

The annually increasing number of illegitimate children in this county is fast presenting society with a baffling problem. Vital statistics recently filed in the register of deeds office for the past year show that every eighth child born in the county during that period was of doubtful parentage. Not so many years ago, the unfortunate wail was spurned by society, but the number is increasing so rapidly they can now almost have a society of their own, dragging down moral standards in general and increasing the burden of a thoughtful society.

Starting life with his income reduced more than half by the general absence of a recognized father, the unwanted child, in most cases, sooner or later becomes society's charge. Past records indicate that at least seven out of eight of the illegitimate children born last year will crowd the courts in later years, make brazen demands upon society and never suffer the slightest humility.

How long society can stand the tax is uncertain, but the increasing number of public charges is already making itself felt in the tax levies, in the moral structure of home and community, and in the legal activities of the criminal courts. The citizen valuing decency is called upon to support the flesh and blood of the irresponsible. The task of fitting this type of offspring into society is becoming more perplexing year by year, and unless the number is checked it simply cannot be handled. The welfare worker will not be able to cope with the situation. Society must be awakened to the danger resulting from loose morals, and it must be awakened now if it will escape the penalty in the future.

Parents, unwise to ultra-modern trends, are allowing their children to fall victims of a reckless social group and honestly believe they are doing the best by them. It is time for the parents to awaken to the facts facing their children, and it is time for society to interest itself in stemming a tide that may, unless it is checked, devour it.

Divorce, legalized after a modern-day pattern; indifference on the part of modern parents, in too many cases; and the illegitimate children are certain to exact a costly toll sooner or later, a toll that is already showing an alarming increase in the records of the common jail, the school for delinquents, and in the common streets.

**Consumers Benefit**

Greenville, S. C., Piedmont.

Factual refutation of the widely believed fallacy that chain stores control the retail merchandising business and are driving independents to the wall is found in a news item printed by *Business Week*.

In 1935, the last year for which figures are available, chain stores handled 22.8 per cent of the total retail trade volume.

This marked a decline from their best, 1933, when they did 24.5 per cent of the business.

Thus, chain stores do little more than one-fifth of the nation's retailing, while independent stores do almost four-fifths.

It is of exceptional interest that the ratio of business done by the two groups varies but little from year to year, and is but slightly different now than it was in 1929.

This substantiates the contention of those experts who have studied the merchandising situation and reached the conclusion that chain growth has about reached its apex, and that chains will hold their share of the business in the future but will not materially increase it.

The fact that the chains have not gained a monopoly on the merchandising field speaks well for the independent stores of this country. When the chains first became a significant competitive influence, a small percentage of independents "gave up the ghost," and adopted the easy alibi that they were doomed.

The better independents, however, accepted the chains as a spur to their own advancement. They took over chain innovations they thought good, and appeared with additional innovations of their own, which were adopted by the chains. They gave more attention to cutting their operating costs, in order to reduce prices to the consumer. They studied better display and advertising methods. They held and increased their clientele.

As a result, under a free competitive system, both types of merchandisers have prospered, and the consumer has reaped the benefits.

**Facing Death Unattended**

Records show that nearly half the people who died in this county last year faced death unattended by physicians. Some of those who passed away during the year 1936 died suddenly, but numbers of them, occupying a low economic position, simply could not afford the services of a doctor.

Pellagra, tuberculosis, diphtheria, malnutrition, typhoid fever, malaria, and childbirth, causes for many of the 1936 deaths that were not necessary under modern medicine, took their toll among our people. Suicides, murders and highway accidents aggravated the situation, the two groups of causes making it quite apparent that we value human life cheaply, that there is a maladjustment in our economic world.

The individual, with very few exceptions, is responsible for his own undoing, but modern economic conditions contribute their part. The man who makes a surplus over and above his expenses, too often squanders that surplus, and when adversity strikes it finds him penniless, and he is a subject of society or he suffers. The man who barely makes enough to live on is really the unfortunate one, and he ordinarily has to suffer, sooner or later, and face death alone.

Socialization of medicine is not yet available, and, until some change is effected in the curative field, the masses are entitled to the benefits of preventive medicine. They should be taught and aided to ward off such diseases as pellagra, diphtheria, tuberculosis, and others that are preventable. The cost would be negligible compared with the saving of human life. Last year in Martin County there were 14 deaths directly traceable to tuberculosis. Two died from typhoid fever. Undernourishment was given as the cause for two more deaths in this county, a place of plenty but where something or other is lacking. Childbirth claimed several lives. Colitis claimed the lives of nine children, mostly babies. Fifty babies died before attaining the age of one year. The black and white records show the presence of pellagra, that disease claiming several lives during 1936.

Seventy-one of the 261 people who died in this county last year were unattended by doctors, the records show. Causes of at last 30 deaths were listed as "unknown."

All in all, the vital statistics for Martin County in the year 1936 present a gloomy picture, but in the proposal to establish a full-time health service there is reason for renewed hope for the masses in this county.

**Why Is Everybody in Such a Hurry!**

Morganton News-Herald

Do you ever stop to ask yourself "Why am I and everybody else in such a hurry?" The truth of the business is that we are all rushing through life without knowing why we are rushing and really not taking time to live. What does the average motorist do with the time he saves (?) by driving at a reckless speed, risking his life and the lives of others in his hurry to get where he is going? This is a day of speed—hurry—nerve—high tension. And every year more and more people die of the strain they put on their minds and hearts because of the hurry mania that obsesses the nation.

However, this madness of speed is not so new, not altogether characteristic of this generation. Thoreau, a philosopher of the last century, observed it and wrote about it.

"It (the nation) lives too fast," he wrote in 1854. "Men think it is essential that the nation have commerce, and export ice, and talk through a telegraph, and ride thirty miles an hour, without a doubt, whether they do or not; but whether we shall live like baboons or like men is a little uncertain."

"If we do not get out sleepers, and forge rails, and devote days and nights to the work, but go on tinkering upon our lives to improve them, who will build railroads? And if railroads are not built, how shall we get into heaven in season? But if we stay at home and mind our own business, who will want railroads? We do not ride on the railroads; it rides upon us...."

Why should we live with such hurry and waste of life? We are determined to be starved before we are hungry. Men say that a stitch in time saves nine, and so they take a thousand stitches today and save nine tomorrow... Hardly a man takes a half hour's nap after dinner but when he wakes he holds up his head and asks "What's the news?" as if the rest of mankind had stood his sentinels. Some give directions to be waked every hour, doubtless for no other purpose. After a night's sleep the news is as indispensable as the breakfast. "Pray tell me anything new that has happened to a man anywhere on this globe..." I am sure I have never read any memorable news in a newspaper. If we read of one man robbed, or murdered, or killed by accident, or one house burned, or one vessel wrecked, or one steamboat blown up, or one cow run over on the western railroad, or one lot of grasshoppers in the winter, we need never read of another. One is enough...."

What would Thoreau have written, if he could have looked into 1937, and seen men riding not 30 miles an hour but 70; seen them waking up and reaching not only for newspapers but for the dials of radios, to unloose the outpouring of the world's news; riding not only in railroad trains but in silver ships, through the air!

**The Value of Land**

Stanley News and Press

Real estate trading seems to be on increase, with 31 deeds being put on record here in Stanly county during last week. Investments made in real estate when conditions are normal, or almost so, usually turn out to be good ones. Sometimes the value of a stock or bond will decline to nothing, and you have only a sheet of paper to show for your investment. However, land does not disappear, and you can always go look at it and call it your own.

**NOTICE OF SALE UNDER DEED OF TRUST**

By virtue of the power and authority conferred by a certain deed of trust executed by H. E. Ellison, which is duly recorded in book M-1, at page 194, register of deeds office for Martin County, North Carolina, I will, on the 26th day of April, 1937, at 1:00 o'clock p. m., at the courthouse door in Williamston, N. C., offer for sale and sell to the highest bidder at public, for cash, the following described real estate, to wit: A certain tract of land in Martin County, the same being bounded on the north by the lands of T. A. Davis, on the east by the lands of A. F. Stallings, on the south by the lands of Jerry Winston, on the west by the lands of J. E. Johnson. Containing eleven acres, more or less. This the 24th day of March, 1937.

JOHN D. LILLEY, Trustee.  
By C. W. Jones, Attorney.

**NOTICE OF SALE**

Under and by virtue of a judgment of the superior court of Martin County at the March term, 1937, in the case "Smithwick vs. Walters," the undersigned commissioners will, on Monday, May 3rd, 1937, at 12 o'clock noon, at the courthouse door Martin County, offer for sale to the highest bidder, for cash, the following described tracts of land:

First tract: Beginning on St. Andrews Street on the east side of the A. C. L. R. R.; thence S. 26 degrees west along St. Andrews Street 140 yards; thence S. 63 1-2 degrees west 217 yards to Maple Branch; and along the northern boundary on Charles Street; thence up Maple Branch to the A. C. L. R. R.; thence westerly along and with the A. C. L. R. R. right of way to the beginning at St. Andrews Street. Containing 6 1-10 (6.1) acres, more or less.

Second Tract: One lot situated on

the north side of the A. C. L. R. R. and bounded on the north by Martin Brothers, on the east by O. G. Carson, and the A. C. L. R. R. lot, and on the west by Sunset Avenue. Containing 1-2 acre, more or less.

Third Tract: A tract of land located in Jamesville Township, Martin County, North Carolina, bounded on the east by Maple Branch, on the south by Cooper Swamp, on the west by Gurkin land, and on the north by the Marriner place.

The bidder at said sale will be required to make a deposit of 10 per cent of the purchase price.

This 19th day of March, 1937.  
B. A. CRITCHER,  
E. S. PEEL,  
Commissioners.

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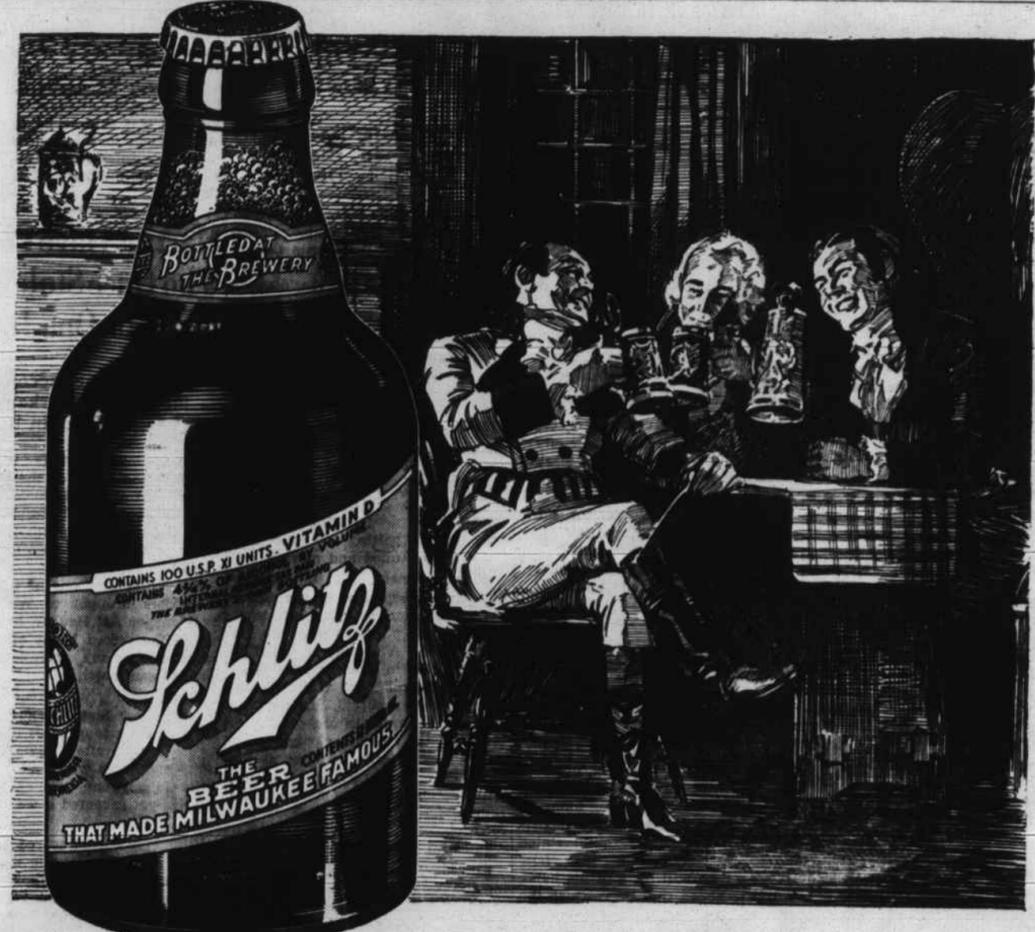
**Annual Meeting of The Stockholders**

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Martin County Building and Loan Association will be held in the county court house in the town of Williamston at 11 o'clock a. m., Tuesday, May 4, 1937.

This April 16, 1937.

**Wheeler Martin**

SECRETARY, MARTIN COUNTY BUILDING & LOAN ASSOCIATION



**Pleasant Memories of Olden Times  
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