

MERRY CHRISTMAS

THE ENTERPRISE

Advertisers Will Find Our Columns a Latchkey to over 1,600 Homes of Martin County.

VOLUME XLI—NUMBER 102

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Friday, December 23, 1938.

Mrs. Martha Philpott Dies At Home Here Wednesday Morning

Funeral Services Are Held Thursday Afternoon at 2:30 O'Clock

Mrs. Martha Elizabeth Philpott, one of Williamston's oldest residents, died at her home on Warren Street here Wednesday morning at 10:30 o'clock following a long period of declining health. Eighty years old, she had been in feeble health for several years and spent the last four months in bed, the end coming peacefully.

The daughter of the late Henry R. and Katherine Davis Purvis, Mrs. Philpott was born in Goose Nest Township near the Halifax County boundary on September 5, 1858. In early womanhood she married John L. Philpott and continued to live there until 1902 when the family moved to Williamston to make their home. In early life Mrs. Philpott joined the Primitive Baptist church, holding a strong faith in its doctrine until the end. Soon after coming to Williamston she moved her membership to the old Skewarkey church here, and during the long years she remained faithful in its service. Mrs. Philpott walked humbly in the sight of her Maker, and cherished the friendship of everyone, both old and young, and the end found her at peace with all the world and her Maker. No greater devotion could be shown for any one than that held by her for her children and family. She was thoughtful of others, and her happiness was gained through a kindly service to her fellowman and loved ones.

Only two children, Miss Kate Philpott and John Philpott, both of Williamston, survive, her husband having died in July, 1916. She also leaves one brother, K. B. Purvis, of Tarboro.

Funeral services were conducted from the home Thursday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by Elder B. S. Cowin, pastor of the Skewarkey Church, assisted by Elder A. B. Ayers. Interment was in the family plot in the Baptist cemetery.

Martin Farmers Are Killing Hogs

The annual task of killing hogs on Martin County farms is getting underway, a small number of farmers having already killed their supplies of meat for another season. Most of the farmers will wait until after Christmas to handle the task and about the middle of January all farm work will be secondary to that connected with hog killing.

Reports state that Martin County has an ample supply of meat for the coming year. With plenty of meat, a surplus of sweet potatoes and collards in their gardens, the farm population is not likely to go hungry during the next few months.

In addition to an ample supply of meat for home use, the county has sold thousands of dollars worth of meat during the past twelve months.

Auto Tag Sales Increasing Daily

Warned there will be no days of grace in the new year, Martin County automobile owners and others in surrounding counties are buying heavily these days at the State Automobile license bureau in the Williamston Motor Company building here.

More than 1,000 tags for automobiles had been sold up until Wednesday evening, netting the State approximately \$10,000. Comparatively few licenses have been sold for big freight trucks, Mr. Joe Gray Corey, assistant manager of the local bureau, stating that less than a dozen and a half of the expensive plates had been sold up until Wednesday night. Licenses have been sold for about 50 pick-up trucks.

The largest single customer the bureau has had was the North Carolina Pulp Company. Plates, costing nearly \$800, were sold to the firm for its fleet of trucks and cars this week.

Employment Office Spreads Christmas Cheer To Many

Christmas cheer will be added to many homes of working people — particularly the unemployed, this season because of the distribution of unemployment compensation checks over the five county area served by the Williamston State Employment office. For the past five or six weeks the local office has distributed on an average of around \$2,500 to \$3,000 a week to eligible unemployed claimants who are out of work.

The Williamston office has approximately 500 claims in force — scattered over the counties of Martin, Beaufort, Washington, Tyrrell and Hyde. Around 400 new claims have been taken in the past six weeks.

There is no such thing as an "average" amount for the weekly check; the benefit amounts ranging from less than \$2.00 to as high as \$15.00 a week. The amount and duration of the payments depend upon the worker's previous employment record, period of service, and total wages with a "covered" employer. The local employment office has placed over 130 applicants and claimants in jobs, both temporary and regular in the past six weeks.

All unemployed workers are not covered by the regulations. A worker must have worked for an employer with eight or more employees and earned at least a certain amount or more in total wages since January 1, 1937, in order to be eligible for unemployment compensation benefits.

Monthly Welfare Cost Is \$4,067.00 in County

HOLIDAY

Activities in offices and in other places of business outside the general stores will start grinding to a stop Saturday about noon. The stores will remain open late to accommodate late shoppers.

County and town offices will close in the early afternoon Saturday, and since Christmas comes on Sunday, next Monday will be observed as a general holiday here. No mail deliveries will be made that day, and the business schedule will be patterned closely after the one in effect on Sundays.

Plans Go Forward For The T.B. Clinic

Plans for holding a county-wide tuberculosis X-ray clinic here during the early part of next month for Martin school children are virtually complete, County Health Officer E. W. Furgurson said today.

The X-rays will be taken in the offices of Drs. Saunders and Brown by a special technician from the State Sanatorium.

Several months ago, more than 2,000 school children were examined for tuberculosis in the county. Out of this number between 350 and 400 showed positive signs and the X-ray work will be limited to that number. Dr. Furgurson points out that it does not necessarily mean cause for alarm when a child shows a positive reaction to a tuberculin test, but that an X-ray should be made to determine the status of the disease. There are but few cases that cannot be cured by proper treatment, and it is hoped that treatment where it is found necessary can be provided for the children in this county.

A fee of \$1 to cover actual cost of taking the picture is asked, and in those cases where a child cannot pay appeals will likely be made for funds to carry on the work, it is understood.

White children will be received in the clinic during the first day, and colored children on the second day. Several hundred pictures can be taken in a single day.

NO MARKET

Hopeful the market will experience a recovery after the holidays, farmers in this community are holding their peanuts off the market just now. Only a few sales have been made in recent days and most of them were unusually small. With prices ranging around government storage figures, the open market has just about suspended operations here for the present.

It is estimated that at least 80 per cent of the crop has been sold in this county.

State And Federal Agencies Pay \$2162 To Needy In County

Aid To the Aged Is Almost Trebled During the Past Year

Martin County, state and federal agencies, spent \$4,067.79 to support the combined welfare and public assistance program in this county during the past month, according to a current report released yesterday by Miss Mary Taylor, superintendent of county welfare. The total cost to Martin County was \$1,905.59, an amount greater by approximately \$500 than the cost in November of last year. The amount includes expenditures for the blind, aged, dependent children, county home, hospitalization, travel and administration.

There has been a marked increase in the cost to the aged, the number jumping from 61 a year ago to 171 last month; the larger group receiving \$1,557 compared with \$462 received by the smaller group in November, 1937.

In addition to the regular departmental work, the welfare group arranged an eye clinic during the period.

The summary of activities, outlined by the department head follows:

Since last November the county welfare department has added two case-workers to the staff. One of these workers is a permanent addition to the department and she is paid by the county. The other case-worker is a temporary addition and her salary and travel is paid entirely from Federal funds. A temporary stenographer who is also paid by the Federal government is employed at the present time. These emergency workers were granted Martin County because of the excessive number of tenant farmers, farm laborers, share-croppers, and small land owners who applied for WPA work as a means of providing for themselves and their families until the farm work began next year.

A resume of the expenditures incurred for all work done through the various channels of the welfare department during the past month are as follows:

Administrative cost, which includes all salaries (7 persons) and travel for four—\$767.35. Approximately one-half of this amount or \$285.85 is contributed by the State and Federal government.

Office expenses (including telephone)—\$38.83.

General relief and drugs to 17 single persons and 22 families—\$151.22.

Boarding home care for two children—\$40.00.

Two pauper burials and one ambulance trip—\$30.00.

Hospitalization, which includes three patients at the State Sanatorium and five tonsillectomies—\$270.45.

Public assistance expenditures (Continued on page six)

Dr. E. W. Furgurson To Resign As Head Health Department

Health Board Will Meet Shortly to Name Successor

Dr. E. W. Furgurson, capable head of the Martin County Health Department for almost a year, will offer his resignation to the Martin County Board of Health at a meeting to be held here soon, it was unofficially learned yesterday. Announcing that he plans to enter private practice, Dr. Furgurson will continue on in the county service until a successor can be named. He has volunteered his services at no cost to the county until his successor can get acquainted with the work, and it is likely that he will continue here until the latter part of next month. During early February he contemplates entering a hospital for continued training.

Learning that Dr. Furgurson planned to offer his resignation as head of the county health department, six doctors have been here this week to look over the field and enter their applications for the job. Most of the doctors applying for the post are completing a special course of training in the United States Public Health school in the University of North Carolina this week and will be ready to start work within a short time.

J. C. Manning, member of the county board of health, stated this morning that a meeting of the group would be held next Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock.

Plans To Advance Improvement Plan Here Are Pending

Board Hesitates to Sell \$72,000 in Bonds at Six Per Cent

Plans to advance a \$124,000 general improvement program here continued uncertain Thursday morning as the town board of commissioners hesitated to sell \$72,000 in bonds at the high interest rate of six per cent. Buyers were reported anxious for the bonds at that figure, but at a special meeting of the commissioners Wednesday morning there was some doubt expressed if the sale would be prosecuted at the high interest rate.

Going before local government commission authorities in Raleigh late Wednesday, town officials proposed a lower interest rate. The bond companies took the proposal under advertisement, but shortly before noon Thursday they had not announced whether they would consider purchasing the bonds at a rate below six per cent or hold to the original figure.

During the meantime, plans are being made to open bids for the construction of streets, sidewalks and the extension of water and sewer lines and the sinking of a fourth deep well for the town's water supply. Several contractors have studied the plans and specifications for the improvement program and were making arrangements to submit bids.

Every effort is being made to advance the program and share the \$52,200 grant from the Public Works Administration. If plans can be completed for advancing the program, construction work is to get underway by January 2 or 3.

Jamesville Methodist Church To Hold Services

Rev. Wade Johnson, pastor at Jamesville, will conduct a Christmas service at the Methodist church Sunday afternoon at three o'clock. His sermon subject will be "The Magnetism of the Manger." Holy Communion will be celebrated.

Mr. Johnson preaches at Jamesville the first and second Sunday mornings at 10 a. m., the third and fourth Sunday afternoons at 3 p. m., and the fifth Sunday evenings at 7:30 p. m.

Appeal Goes Out for All To Support Spirit of Christmas

Christmas day approaches with a Christmas Cheer fund inadequate to meet the needs of an unfortunate people in this community. Some have liberally contributed, others have given willingly of their time and still others have supported the movement in one way or another, but the response in a section of plenty has been disappointing.

Plans for advancing the movement have been announced virtually complete, and the sponsors and other willing assistants are making final arrangements for the distribution on Friday and Saturday. As the Christmas Cheer movement sponsors wind up their thoughtful task, a last appeal is made to a thoughtful people, urging them to extend wherever possible direct aid to some needy person or family in their respective communities. The Christmas Cheer fund and collection of toys will hardly more than scratch the surface on the destitute front in

the community this year, and an urgent appeal is addressed to everyone who will and can go into some less fortunate home with a few articles and give them in the true Christmas spirit.

Up until yesterday noon, \$130.14 had been contributed. Nearly \$100 has been acknowledged, the following making donations of about \$20: Julius Peel, \$2; John Hassell, \$2; N. Israel, \$1; J. Dawson-Lilley, \$2.50; Bruce Wynne, \$1; W. J. Hodges, \$2; J. C. Anderson, \$5; Mrs. C. T. Robertson, \$3; C. D. Carstarphen, \$1; Mrs. Sam Getsinger, \$1; W. H. Carstarphen, \$1. In addition to that \$10 comes from far away Delhi, India, Dr. Will Jacock, visiting his niece, Mrs. John Hardy, here this week, having contributed that amount after reading an appeal in behalf of the less fortunate in this community.

Other contributions will be acknowledged later.

GREETINGS

Appreciative of the friendship expressed and the patronage accorded them during the past, Williamston merchants and other business men pause at this Christmas time to extend their sincere greetings to all people of this section through the columns of this paper today.

A new hope and a greater understanding are created at Christmas time, and to enhance the value of these, the business forces of this town express, in a most sincere way, their wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Read the little messages, without which Christmas would be no more than just another day in the year, and know that these firms are interested in your happiness at all times, and especially at this glad season of the year.

County Recorder's Court In Lengthy Session This Week

Court Will Not Meet For Another Session Until January 9th

Faced with a crowded docket, the Martin County Recorder's court was in session a greater part of last Monday when Judge H. O. Peel cleared sixteen cases from the docket. The judge and Solicitor D. Elphonsa Johnson were ready to call it a day that afternoon about four o'clock.

The Christmas season offered a "break" for several defendants, the judge showing mercy as the long docket was unfolded.

It was the first session for the court since December 5, the "big" court having "rooted out" the county tribunal last week. With holidays falling on the next two Mondays, the county court will not meet again until Monday, January 9. Most of the defendants placed in jail either had their cases tried or bond was arranged for their freedom during the Christmas season.

The last Monday proceedings: The case charging James Walston with non-support was nolprossed when the prosecuting witness failed to appear in court.

James Curtis Roberson, J. D. and Benson Swanner, charged with disturbing religious worship, were found not guilty.

Bill Person, charged with disturbing religious worship, was sentenced to jail for 19 days. He had spent that much time in jail awaiting trial, and following the trial of his case he gained freedom.

Charged with assaulting a female, Preston Spruill was given a six months suspended road sentence, the court directing him to pay the costs of the case and give the prosecuting witness \$25.

John H. Cowin, charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, was (Continued on page six)

Gala Decorations

Brighten The Old Town For Holiday

Judges Will Face Big Task Between Six and Ten Friday Night

Gala lights and decorations, carefully arranged almost overnight, have chased gloom and darkness away and today the Christmas spirit bursts forth in all its beauty and fullness in nearly 200 local homes and yards. A preliminary survey of the individual holiday decorations last evening points to a difficult task for the judges when they make their inspection tour Friday night between the hours of six and ten o'clock. The names of the judges have not been disclosed, but all decorators competing in the contest are asked to be ready and have their tree and porch lights burning between the hours of 6 and 10 p. m. Friday, December 23.

Exclusive of the municipal and other decorative arrangements on public buildings there are by actual count, 66 trees and 29 porch decorations. Nearly 100 homes carry interior decorations in one form or another suggestive of the Christmas season. Last year there were fewer trees and porch decorations.

The judges will find work of real artists when they start out to decide the winners of the \$30 in prizes, \$5 and \$2.50 for the best and second best yard trees, \$5 and \$2.50 for the best and second best porch decorations, \$5 and \$2.50 for the best store windows and \$5 and \$2.50 for the best store interiors. Public buildings, while subject to attention of the judges, are not included in the contest for prizes.

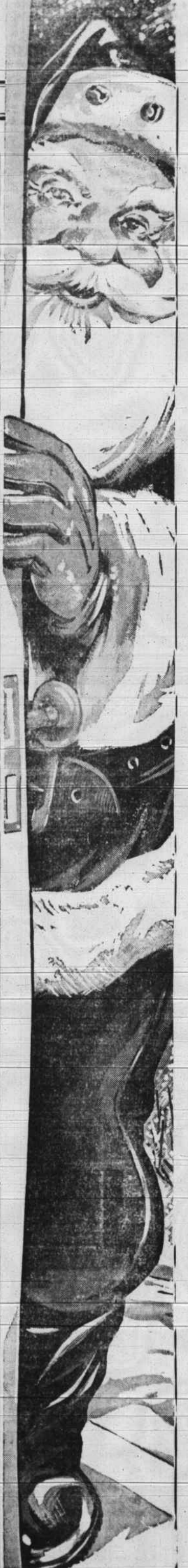
Lighted trees and doorways outshone the regular street lights in the residential sections, and much favorable comment has been heard on a number of the decorations, but the opinions await the approval of the official judges. It is agreed that Williamston, with the exception of one dark spot down the courthouse way, is expressing in lights and decorations a gayer Christmas spirit than ever before. Many outside people are seen traveling through the streets at night to see the extensive decorations.

Further preparations for extending the decorations are being advanced today.

WON'T BE LONG

Instead of days, one now turns to the hours in telling how far off Christmas is. It just won't be long now!

Holiday shopping, stalked by adverse weather conditions, is now getting underway on a greater scale, and in the few remaining hours before Christmas local people are cordially urged to remember local merchants. Local store stocks are complete, and the prices are right. Do your shopping in Williamston! The stores are open evenings.



Williamston Merchants and Other Business Firms Extend Every Good Wish for the Christmas Season