

Advertisers Will Find Our Columns a Latchkey to over 1,800 Homes of Martin County.

# THE ENTERPRISE

Watch the Label on Your Paper, As It Carries the Date Your Subscription Expires.

VOLUME XLII—NUMBER 17

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, February 28, 1939.

ESTABLISHED 1899

## Joe Johnson, Now Resting In Jail, To Face Trial Soon

### Officers Working on Clues In Effort to Connect Him With Murder

Joe Johnson, young colored man who was arrested for the alleged robbery of C. B. Allen's filling station on the Hamilton Road about ten days ago and who officers believe is connected with the Paul Lilley murder case in this county, is now residing in the Martin County jail after receiving treatment in a Washington hospital for a bullet wound accidentally inflicted by himself.

While officers are believed to have uncovered additional information connecting Johnson with the murder of Lilley near here on Christmas eve morning, they have not yet formally charged the man with the crime.

Johnson has admitted he maneuvered the Allen station robbery by himself, and officers have uncovered clues that are expected to connect him with the Lilley filling station robbery a few days prior to the murder. A bullet rifle with which Johnson accidentally shot himself on the night of the filling station robbery, was found by Miss Courtney Jenkins near the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Jenkins, on the Hamilton road a short time after the Allen station robbery. The rifle was stolen from the Lilley filling station last December, the officers stating today that other weapons stolen from the Lilley filling station had been recovered.

Johnson, pleading guilty to the Allen station robbery, waived preliminary hearing rights, but he is said to be trying to make arrangements for bond. No bond amount has been set by officers, but it is not likely that the man can gain his freedom before he faces trial in the superior court in March. He has employed counsel.

Following his return here last week-end, Johnson has not been questioned in connection with the Lilley station robbery and murder, officers explaining that they have been working on other clues in the case. Whether those clues will prove damaging to Johnson, officers would not say.

## Lockjaw Victim Is Recovering Here

After lying at death's door for weeks with lockjaw, John Sherrod, seven-year-old colored boy, is now recovering rapidly at his home on West Main Street here. While he is not completely out of danger, the boy is able to talk and eat, and rests very comfortably most of the time. Reactions are not so frequent now, and it is almost certain the victim will recover.

The case is of unusual significance in that the two other cases recalled here by members of the medical profession proved fatal.

Sticking a nail in his foot about a month ago, the boy went almost two weeks without medical attention except for a few applications of spirits of turpentine by his mother. Doctors were called after he had had convulsions for about 18 hours. He was given 80,000 units of antitoxin for tetanus, and even after that was administered he was not expected to live for several days. For almost a week the child could not open his mouth, and he was without food during that time. He was able to drink a little water through a straw.

Reporting on the other two cases on record here, doctors state that the first two victims received treatment in the early stages of the disease while the present case did not get attention until the disease was almost in its last stage.

Records show that nearly 75 per cent of the cases prove fatal.

## Local Girl Scouts Hold Very Interesting Meet

The local Girl Scouts held a very interesting meeting Thursday night in the courthouse. The roll was called by the scribe after which the meeting was turned over to Miss Mary Warren. After a brief business discussion, Miss Roberson, of the Martin County health department, gave some interesting suggestions on first aid and the group was taught some of the requirements of first aid study.

One new member was welcomed into the troop.

## Pay Stops, Legislature Now Likely To Get Down to Work

Their pay scheduled to stop on Thursday of this week, North Carolina's legislators are now expected to settle down and go to work. Representative H. G. Horton, home for the week-end, stating that he believed that some of the lawmakers would be ready to compromise when they realized they were having to paddle their own way around the costly capital.

The long-promised revenue bill that has been in hibernation during a greater part of the time the assembly has been in session, is expected out tomorrow or Thursday, and a bill calling for the refunding of road money to Martin and a number of other counties is having a place reserved for it in the hopper this week.

Eyes are centered on the revenue bill, unofficial reports stating that the appropriations group was still about a cool million ahead of the game, and that the already heavily taxed oil folks are asking for a re-

vision. A hearing for the oil men was scheduled yesterday, and had it not been for that the revenue bill would possibly be in the open now. Yesterday, the revenue men upped the income tax rate and brought the figures nearer into line with the appropriations after lifting the sales tax on building materials and reducing beer taxes.

The liquor business is about straightened out for another two years, but not solved by a jug full. It has been virtually agreed to by the powers that be to up the state liquor tax up from 7 to 8 1-2 per cent on gross sales. An increase of three per cent was first proposed, but a compromise was effected. The Withrow proposal to call a statewide referendum on the liquor control and a proposal to open warehouses for the distribution of liquor by mail are definitely "out," Representative Horton said.

"About the biggest thing the legislature did last week was to go to Charlotte," Mr. Horton explained.

### EARLY AND LATE

If blue mold and the beetles don't destroy their plant beds, Martin County tobacco farmers will have a plentiful supply of plants from about the middle of March until early June.

A few farmers prepared and sowed their plant seed last December, and since that time the work has been carried on almost steadily when the weather permitted. Some of the plants will be ready for transplanting in a very short time, and it is possible that early transplanting records will be established this season. Unofficial reports state that there are a few farmers who have not yet prepared their seed beds, establishing what is a record for late planting.

## Asks Cooperation In Reporting Diseases

In order to prevent the spread of communicable diseases in Martin County the health department seeks the whole-hearted cooperation of every physician, parent, guardian, school teacher, or householder in asking them to report every case of communicable disease under their care. A partial list of these reportable diseases is as follows:

Chickenpox, diphtheria, dysentery, bacillary, German measles, gonorrhea, infantile paralysis, influenza, malaria, measles, meningococcus meningitis, pellagra, plague, rabies, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, scarlet fever, septic sore throat, smallpox, syphilis, trachoma, tuberculosis, typhalaria, typhoid fever, typhus fever, undulant fever, Vincent's infection, whooping cough, yellow fever.

Only a few of these preventable diseases need to be quarantined, but in order to keep eternal vigilance against their spread the N. C. State Board of Health has ruled that all must be reported to the county quarantine officer within 24 hours after diagnosis.

"No health department, state or local, can effectively prevent or control diseases, without knowledge of when, where and under what conditions cases are occurring." The lives of babies, children and adults of this community are too precious to be careless about letting an epidemic of some contagious disease sweep through taking its toll in death, particularly when such disease can be prevented, usually by some simple precautions. Your local health department is anxious to help you keep Martin County Free from such diseases.

## Addresses Everetts Parents-Teachers

The Everetts Parents-Teachers association met Thursday night, February 23, 1939 in the Everetts school auditorium. Dr. Wilson made an interesting and instructive talk, giving statistics comparing the health of the child of Martin County with that of New York State. Following his talk, a play was given by the fifth grade, "Apple Seed John." The fifth grade had the most parents present.

The seventh grade went sight seeing in Raleigh last Thursday, visiting the capitol, governor's mansion, state hospital, penitentiary, airport, and other places of interest.

## Local Building & Loan Association To Open Stock Sale

### Stock in the Forty-Fourth Series Available Saturday

With quite a few applications already received, the Martin County Building and Loan Association is expecting a large stock subscription in its 44th series opening here on Saturday of this week. While no record sale is anticipated, officers of the organization feel certain the sale will exceed 500 shares, reports stating that much interest has already been shown in the series opening this week.

Most of the stock already spoken for was engaged by prospective builders, who, in several cases, are supplementing stock already in force, but present indications are that most of those participating in the series opening Saturday are doing so for the methodical saving feature. The organization's saving plan offering a unique and attractive system for laying aside small amounts each week is growing in popularity. In addition to offering a systematic savings plan, the organization offers one of the best investment returns available.

Williamston's building program has advanced by leaps and bounds during recent years, and the Martin County Building and Loan organization has within the past two years financed the construction of nearly 100 homes. The building pace is likely to slacken in the future to some extent, but reports state that there still exists a general housing shortage here.

Offering one of the most advantageous plans for financing building construction, the organization will sell this week a large block of stock to young couples who are anxious to build, but who will buy stock and carry it for two or three years before actually starting the construction of their homes.

Headquarters for the association are maintained in the Branch Bank and Trust Company building.

## Storm Victims Are Clothed In Bertie

Rallying to the aid of the Bertie County storm victims, a liberal people throughout northeastern North Carolina and Virginia have literally flooded available storage houses with clothing, reports from the Bertie capital yesterday stating that Mayor J. A. Pritchett had issued a general order advising that sufficient clothing had been received and that no more was needed in the present emergency. "They have everyone clothing to outfit nearly everyone of the 96 victims six times," a Windsor citizen said.

The urgent need is for cash money to finance the construction of homes and farm out-buildings, it was pointed out. Several thousand dollars have been raised, but the amount on hand is inadequate to finance the construction of buildings necessary to rehabilitate the homeless.

According to an indirect report received here today, the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company has advised the relief heads in Bertie that it would contribute \$75 to each family that lost their home in the storm.

During the few days following the storm, truck loads of clothing moved through here from several towns in this section, several Jewish merchants delivering in person a solid truck load of virtually new goods to the sufferers.

### LIBERAL

It's a right good ole world after all, one is bound to admit after turning over in his mind the reports coming from Bertie County's storm stricken area.

Jimmie Leggett, Williamston Scout, received \$25 for the tornado victims when he cited the facts and needs to five New Yorkers traveling through the area one day last week. Bert Parker, another local youngster in the Scout group, reports that he and other members of the organization raised in excess of \$200 in cash for the Bertie storm victims.

Official reports on the rehabilitation work are not available at this time, but it is understood that the people of eastern Carolina and those in other sections of the country have generously responded to the pleas for help.

## Thousands Visit Storm Area In Bertie County on Sunday

Anxious to see the handiwork of the wrathful elements, sight-seers crowded into the Bertie County tornado-stricken area last Sunday afternoon by the tens of thousands. Highways were blocked by cars estimated to number 5,000, and through-traffic was stalled for as much as an hour and a half. Several thousand people, bent on glimpsing the ruins—that stretch over a three-mile course just north of the town of Windsor, turned back at Windsor. Travel was reduced to twenty minutes to the block in the town of Windsor, reports stating that a line of cars numbering an even thousand formed just west of Windsor and stretched several miles on the other side.

Filling stations did a rushing business, reports stating that the "pop" boxes were drunk dry and the water supply in the rural spots was threatened. Big-bottled drinks, sev-

eral hours removed from an ice box, tasted good to those caught in the traffic jam for an hour or more. Bus schedules were delayed more than thirty minutes, and late that afternoon it looked as if nothing but a second tornado could clear the traffic jam. Fifteen automobiles broke down and aggravated the traffic problem which proved a "jonah" to fifteen or more highway patrolmen. A larger passenger bus, its engine running idle for long periods, was forced out of commission and an extra had to be pressed into service.

It was estimated that between twenty and thirty thousand people, some from a distance of 150 miles away, crowded into the stricken area during the afternoon. Relief agencies, headed by the Scouts, did not let the crowd slip by and more than \$1,000 was collected, according to unofficial reports reaching here.

## County Officer Fired On in Making Arrest

### Jackson Brothers Are Arrested For Alleged Meat Theft

#### Deputy Roy Peel Holds His Ground in Face of Gun Fire

Deputy Roy Peel barely escaped with his life late Saturday afternoon when aiding Sheriff C. B. Roebuck effect the arrest of two men, T. F. Jackson and Solen Jackson, charged with the theft of about 250 pounds of meat from Farmer L. H. Matthews, near Parmele. Closing in on the alleged rogues, Sheriff Roebuck ordered them to halt, explaining that the law of the land was after them. Deputy Peel was made a target as he ran from in front of a car toward one of the two men. The pistol bullet whizzed by, missing the young officer by inches. Removing his gun from its holder, Peel did not back ground and did not open a return fire. "Throw down your gun and up with your hands," Peel commanded with a voice which he later described as a bit uncertain. T. F. Jackson, who attempted to shoot the deputy, surrendered, but the other man tore into the woods along a lonely road.

Sheriff Roebuck gave chase, stumbled and fell and lost his pistol and flashlight. Leaving light and pistol, the sheriff got up and continued to chase the small black object through the dark woods. The race was ended in less than 50 yards, but Jackson did not want to give up and the officer had to tussle with his man a short while before he could subdue him.

The Jacksons, young county white men, are alleged to have raided Matthews' smokehouse, near Parmele, some time during last Friday night. The robbers carried away about 21 hams and shoulders weighing about 250 pounds. They hid the meat and left it in the woods about 15 steps from the road and about one and one-half miles from the Matthews home and just a few hundred yards from the Jackson home.

Investigating the theft Saturday morning, Sheriff Roebuck followed the tracks of the car and found the meat which he returned to the owner. Believing the thieves would return for the meat, the officers started a long watch at the spot where the meat was found. About 11 o'clock the Jackson men drove down the old Robersonville-Parmele road, got out and looked for the meat. "I swear we hid it right there," one of the two said when they found the meat gone. "Yes, and some scoundrel has swiped it," the other replied. Those were not the exact words the Jacksons used, but the sheriff realized that he could not expect any compliment, and ignored the remarks.

While the two continued to look for the meat, the officers stationed themselves at the car on the road side. When the Jacksons returned, the sheriff started around the back of the machine and Deputy Peel around the front, and then it was that the young officer was fired upon.

The two men declared they were not looking for meat, that they

(Continued on page six)

### APPLICANTS

It appears now that there will be no shortage in the personnel for listing property for taxation in this county in April. According to John E. Pope, chairman of the Martin County Board of Commissioners, quite a number of people have applied for places as tax-list takers, included in the list of applications are those of most of the old list-takers, it was learned.

## Farm Bureau Plans Big County Meet

Meeting here last evening, a Martin County Farm Bureau Federation committee perfected plans for holding a big meeting of the organization's membership in a Williamston tobacco warehouse on Friday, March 10 at 6:30 o'clock. A free supper will be served, the committee announcing this morning that possibly a dozen or fifteen pigs would be barbecued for the bureau members.

Invitations are being issued to State farm leaders and heads of Farm Bureau Federations in adjoining counties, the arrangement committee stating that the meeting would possibly be the largest of its kind ever held in the county. Speakers for the event will be announced within the next few days. During the meantime, the office of the county bureau is communicating with each of the nearly 500 members, urging them to attend, and bring new members with them. The supper is being arranged without cost to the membership.

Messrs. V. G. Taylor, chairman, S. T. Everett, C. A. Roberson, C. L. Daniel, H. L. Roebuck and J. R. Winslow attended the meeting last night and made arrangements for the supper and program next week.

## Tug Boat Sinks In Mouth Of Roanoke

The steam tug, "Winthrop," caught fire and sunk in the mouth of the Roanoke River, a few miles below Plymouth, late last Thursday night. Captain P. P. Walker, owner, and his crew of four men, escaped in a life boat and spent the remainder of the night in the river lowlands, making their way to Plymouth early the next morning.

Discovered soon after members of the crew had their midnight lunch, the fire is believed to have started when the tug struck the side of the river channel and knocked down the kitchen stove. When discovered, the fire was burning rapidly. The boat was beached.

Built at a cost of \$28,000, the tug was partially insured.

## New Crop Allotments Are Before Group in Raleigh

The 1939 acreage allotments available to Martin County farmers under the soil conservation program are now in the Raleigh office of the State College Extension Service for approval. Few changes were made in the allotments as compared with those of last year, it is understood.

## Colored Woman Is Beaten Nearly To Death on Saturday

### Tom Moore Is Jailed For Brutal Attack On Rosa Ellison

Claiming she tried to take his life with an ice pick, Tom Moore, young local colored man, attacked and nearly beat to death—Rosa Ellison, 28-year-old colored woman, at her home on East Main Street, near the river, here last Saturday evening at 6:30 o'clock.

Using a cane bottom chair, Moore broke the woman's arm, fractured her skull and bruised her almost from head to foot. Twenty-three stitches were necessary to close one wound on her head. Treated in the offices of Drs. Saunders and Brown, the victim of the attack was removed to her home where she is getting along as well as could be expected. She is expected to recover.

Said to have been drinking, Moore locked the doors to the hut and in administering the beating he soon broke the chair into a dozen pieces. Neighbors refused to intercede, and Henry Crawford, white fisherman, happened along and he called the police. When Officers Allsbrooks and John Roebuck reached there they could hear the licks as they fell upon the victim. The woman was virtually unconscious then, and as each blow fell she could do no more than grunt. Officer Roebuck said "We had to break in a door to gain an entrance, and almost had to choke Moore off the woman," the officer added. The Ellison woman would have been killed within two or three more minutes, officers believe.

After the chair was broken and splintered, Moore took a broken standard of about 20 inches in length and with a nail in the end of it and continued the attack. "It was the piece he was using when we broke in on him," the officers said. Each blow tore the flesh and bruised the body, and the officers did not expect the victim to live until they got her to a doctor. She was unconscious for quite a while, and yesterday remembered little about the facts leading up to the attack or the attack itself.

Moore, as he rode up town with the officers and the victim, insisted that he had not hurt the woman "much" and declared she was just "putting on." The alleged attack upon him by the woman with an ice pick was reported to the officers by Moore after he had been jailed.

The estranged wife of Arthur Ellison, of Jamesville, the woman came to Williamston about five years ago, and was reported to have lived with Moore as his common-law wife. Moore is a Beaufort County Negro, but has made his home here for the past several years.

A hearing in the case is pending the recovery of the injured woman, officers stating that he will likely be booked for an assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill. The case may be placed on the superior court docket for trial in March.

Officers described the attack as the most brutal they had ever seen.

## Attendance Upon Schools Is Normal

Lowered considerably by influenza during the past month, attendance in the schools of this county is now approximately normal, Superintendent J. C. Manning said this morning following a visit to five of the larger schools yesterday. Up until a few days ago, attendance figures held to a low point as a general rule throughout the county, but at no time did the officials consider it necessary to suspend classes. The schools in Plymouth were closed last week on account of the large number of influenza cases, but they will be reopened next Monday.

After reporting a slight decrease a few days ago, local doctors now state that the number of influenza cases is increasing slightly, but the presence of the disease is far from alarming. On an average, the doctors are reporting from twenty to twenty-five new cases of influenza in this immediate territory daily.

## Spain's Civil War Reported Drawing Slowly To an End

Spain's two and one-half-year-old civil war, marked by untold suffering and strife, is reported drawing to an end. The Loyalists (government forces) have been whipped into submission, and the winners have been recognized by both England and France.