

Issue Twenty-One Marriage Licenses In Martin County

November Issuance Is Largest For Any Month So Far This Year

The issuance of marriage licenses in this county approximated a normal figure for the month of November and ranked as the largest for any month so far this year. For the fifth successive month, the number of licenses issued to white couples has equaled or exceeded the number issued to colored couples. Last month eleven licenses were issued to white and ten to colored couples as compared with thirty issued to both races in November of last year. The issuance last month was virtually the same as it was in November, 1937, and larger than the number for November, 1931 and 1932.

So far this year 132 marriage licenses have been issued in this county, 65 to white and 67 to colored couples, as compared with 228 issued in the first eleven months of last year.

Licenses were issued last month to the following couples:

- White**
- Benjamin Thomas Wynn, of Everetts, and Thelma Griffin, of Williamston.
 - Willie Wynne and Hazel Edmondson, both of this county.
 - Gordon Howell and Nellie Fay Wynne, both of Martin County.
 - Joe Hollis, Jr., and Velma Ree Holliday, both of the county.
 - Lloyd B. Whichard, of Grimesland, and Dorcas N. Jackson, of Greenville.
 - Milton Mendenhall and Mrs. Sarah Hadley Alexander, both of Martin County.
 - Alfred Thomas Tice and Mittie Brown Manning, both of Martin County.
 - James Otis Bullock and Nellie Faye Stalls, both of this county.
 - Benjamin F. Dixon, of New Bern, and Jane Sessoms, of Bertie County.
 - Charles C. Martin, of Jamesville, and Leyta Faye Manning, of this county.
 - Joseph S. Sitterson, of Columbia, S. C., and Louise Martin Johnson, of Hamilton.
- Colored**
- William Joseph Spruill and Naomi Duggins, both of this county.
 - J. D. Swanner and Mildred Coffield, both of Martin County.
 - Robert Richardson, Jr., and Retha Richardson, both of this county.
 - Abell Purrington and Catherine Biggs, both of Martin County.
 - Robert Whitaker and Lillie Mae Powell, both of this county.
 - Roy Cherry and Isolene Ryan, both of Bertie County.
 - Julius Crandell and Doretha Knight, both of this county.
 - Singleton Moore, Jr., and Karro Bell Williams, both of this county.
 - Willie Andrews and Marjorie Ampie, both of this county.
 - William Frank Spruill and Mary Della Jones, both of Martin County.

1940 Auto Tags Are Moving Fast Here

Commenting on the sales of the new 1940 auto license tags, Mr. N. C. Green said the tags were moving much faster than they did for the same period last year. The total sold during the season, through Monday, totaled 206, 20 of which were tags for trucks.

The new license plates went on sale here in the Williamston Motor Company, Friday, December 1. Sales will gradually increase as the deadline, January 1, approaches. Last year no extension of time was granted by the State, and Mr. Green said he was of the opinion that the same ruling would prevail this year.

Town Commission In Meeting Monday

In their meeting here Monday night the town commissioners discussed everything from fireworks to the alley adjoining the properties of Messrs. F. U. Barnes and C. G. Crockett, but no definite action was taken on anything other than the decision to place the Christmas lights on the local streets Wednesday night. Complaints were registered with the commissioners by several local citizens relative to the promiscuous shooting of fireworks, but the board did not take action feeling that it is the duty of the parents to curb the nuisance.

The fire department reported that several links of hose needed to be replaced. The commissioners ordered the clerk to write for competitive prices before placing the order.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Barnhill, of Colerain, announce the birth of a daughter, Betty Jane, on Monday, December 4. Mrs. Barnhill is the former Miss Irma Gurkin, of Williamston.

Annual Sale of Christmas Seals Gets Underway Here

The annual sale of Christmas seals, to be used in continuing the fight against tuberculosis, began here yesterday under the sponsorship of the Junior Woman's Club. The drive will continue until Christmas.

Of the funds derived from the sale of the red and blue seals, 75 per cent will remain in Williamston for local use, while the remaining 25 per cent will be given to the state sanatorium.

Mrs. H. O. Peel was named general chairman of the seal campaign and has as her sales committee, the following: Mesdames Irving Margolis, I. T. Walker, J. H. Saunders, Jr., G. H. Gurganus, W. G. Peele, William Glover, A. J. Manning, Jr., Arthur Bertolet, K. D. Worrell, Charles Leonard, Joe Glenn, J. A. Eason, Edwin Peele, John Wier, Hubert Coburn, Ernest Etheridge, Samuel

Woolford, Leslie Smith Harold Hargett, Marion Cobb, George Whitehurst, Herman Seawell, D. R. Davis and Edwin Trahey, and Misses Julia Everett, Ruby Harrison, and Martha Leggett.

Funds derived from the sale of these seals will aid in finding new cases of the dreaded disease, tuberculosis, by paying for examinations, tests, X-rays, free clinics. They also buy milk and other supplies for needy tubercular persons and undernourished children and provide a year-around program of education of tuberculosis, its prevention, care and cure.

With the approach of the holiday season, everyone is urged to use these seals this year for decorative purposes on packages, letters and cards. This symbol is one of beauty and one of health.

Suggests Painting of Samuel Johnston Be Placed in Post Office

Trading at Home Pays Better Than Ever at Christmas

With the Christmas season now in the offing, everyone is urged to take advantage of the opportunities offered right here in Williamston by the local merchants, before going elsewhere to make their Christmas purchases.

This year, local stores have a more elaborate display of toys for the kiddies than ever before, numerous gifts for father, mother, brother and sister, and everyone is invited to look these selections over well before doing their shopping out of town. Trade at home and make this a strictly community Christmas.

Was Instrumental in Establishing This as Postal Point in 1793

Also Leader in Formation of Continental Government and First N. C. Senator

By WARREN H. BIGGS
In the year 1779 there was a "bill" introduced in the General Assembly to incorporate the Town of Williamston on the lands of Thomas Hunter. From this date until 1793 there was no post office in the town. In the spring of 1793 Samuel Johnston, finishing his term as the First United States Senator from North Carolina, purchased from William McKenzie a tract of land, containing about 70 acres, partly in the town of Williamston, up which he established his residence, calling it, "My Little Hermitage."

The town, at this time, contained only about twenty families and forty houses. Governor Johnston, realizing the need of a post office for the convenience of the people, secured from the post office department permission for its establishment, and on March 4, 1793, Postmaster General Timothy Pickens forwarded to Gov. Johnston papers to that end, with instructions that the person selected by Gov. Johnston as postmaster might enter upon his duties as soon as he had taken the proper oath.

It appears that Thomas Jones was selected and he became the first postmaster, rendering his first account to the general office on October 1, 1793.

Thomas Hunter succeeded Jones in 1797, and Richard Williams was appointed in 1800, holding the office until 1808. Those serving since 1808 were as follows: James Bernet, appointed July 1, 1808; Samuel Hyman, appointed April 1, 1809; Joseph Biggs, Sr., appointed October 1, 1812; Joseph D. Biggs, appointed March 1, 1826; William B. Bennett, appointed September 20, 1833; William Watts, appointed February 26, 1834; Gilbert L. Moore, appointed May 1, 1850; William B. Lanier, appointed February 2, 1853; William Brennan, appointed June 11, 1858; John R. Lanier, appointed December 13, 1859; Nathan Thomson, appointed September 4, 1865;

Alexander Jackson, appointed May 21, 1866; Benjamin Goodman, appointed April 15, 1869; John G. Watts, appointed September 19, 1870; William T. Watts, appointed February 11, 1874; B. B. Watts, appointed March 24, 1875; John R. Lanier, appointed June 1, 1885; B. B. Watts, appointed April 19, 1889; Joshua L. Ewell, appointed June 17, 1893; B. B. Watts, appointed July 20, 1897; John

(Continued on page four)

Christmas Lights And Decorations Being Placed Here

V. E. P. Company Will Begin Work in Business District Tomorrow

The holiday spirit, creeping over this town and community during recent days, will be given an elaborate boost tomorrow when the Virginia Electric and Power line crew will begin placing hundreds of vari-colored lights throughout the business section of the town.

Quite a few home owners will soon turn to individual decorations, and in a short time, the town will be gaily attired for the Christmas season. Last season the home decorations were considered the finest ever staged here, and already it is understood many are planning to make them more elaborate than ever this year.

The street lights, with vari-colored bulbs, will be criss-crossed over Main Street from the new postoffice building to the Haughton Street intersection, and on Washington Street from the Main Street intersection to the railroad. It is tentatively planned to have them ready and turn them on for the first time tomorrow night.

No word has yet been received from the City Hall boys or the courthouse gang, but something may be stirring on those fronts before many days pass. Year before last, there was considerable rivalry between the contending forces and extended arguments relative to which was the better decorated. Last year the City Hall blazed forth in all its glory, but the courthouse crowd did not offer much competition.

Pageant Presented At Auxiliary Meet

Holding their regular monthly meeting in the American Legion Hut Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock, the Auxiliary was entertained with a lovely pageant entitled, "The Holy Birth," with the Williamston members in charge of the program. Mrs. James Ward directed the pageant and Mrs. W. C. Manning, accompanist, was at the piano.

The stage was set as a stable scene portraying the manger and the Christ child, Virgin Mary, Joseph, and the angels. Eighteen boys and girls in vestments with candles burning, sang Christmas carols during the entire pageant. A blue flood light made the tableau most realistic. Completing the pageant was the approach of the Shepherds and the three kings carrying gold, frankincense and myrrh to the Holy Child.

The entire program follows: Prelude, Processional, O Come All Ye Faithful, Scripture, Luke 2:8-14, Trio, The Lord's Prayer, Poem, Star of Bethlehem, Chorus, Holy Night, Silent Night, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Chorus, The First Noel, Trio, Brahms Lullaby, Chorus, There's a Song in the Air, O Little Town of Bethlehem, Recessional, Joy to the World. Approximately one hundred guests and members witnessed the pageant with a cast of more than thirty people.

Mrs. Arthur White, first vice-president, had charge of the meeting. The auxiliary plans to help sponsor Christmas cheer for the underprivileged children in the county. A veteran's family is being aided and a Junior Activity department is soon to be organized. Window shades for the entire hut and a curtain was furnished for the hut this month. The fourth district meeting will be held in Windsor on December 13th and a large attendance from this auxiliary is hoped for.

The calendar for the year was read by the secretary, with 25 members responding to the roll call.

Older Youth Club Formed By Bertie Boys And Girls

An Older Youth Club, composed of farm boys and girls beyond the 4-H age limit, has been organized in Bertie County, reports Assistant Farm Agent R. D. Smith.

Health Advisory Committee Is Formed in County Last Week

Fully appreciating the services of the Martin County Health Department a group of local civic minded people have sponsored the department in a nation-wide contest for the determination of the best health facilities and services to the people of a county or district. The first award is a bronze plaque to that health department which renders the best service to its people, however, the main purpose of the contest is to obtain an analysis of the various departments so that a substantial progress can be made in public health.

The local health advisory committee is composed of Mr. George Harrison, chairman; Mr. J. L. Hassell, Mr. Elbert Peel, Dr. J. S. Rhodes, Dr. W. C. Mercer, Mr. J. E. Pope,

Mrs. E. P. Cunningham, Mrs. James Manning and Mr. Robert Everett, of Palmyra.

This committee met in the office of the health department last Wednesday to review the work of all health agencies in the county. They advanced many plans whereby the health facilities of this county could be advanced, namely an increased effort to make health knowledge available on a broader scale.

A picture, now in the making, was shown of many of the services of the local department rendering health services. When finished the film will be shown throughout the county and it is believed that a greater value will be placed on the health services of Martin County.

Board Commissioners Perfect Organization For New Year's Work

Tax Listing Begins January 1st; S. H. Grimes Supervisor

J. E. Pope Re-elected Chairman and Elbert S. Peel County Attorney

Meeting in regular session here Monday, the Martin County board of commissioners re-elected J. E. Pope, chairman of the board, and Elbert S. Peel, county attorney for the coming year.

S. H. Grimes was appointed tax supervisor for 1940. The board gave Mr. Grimes authority to select the tax listers in the various townships throughout the county. These appointments will probably be made within the next day or two. Mr. Grimes said. In former years all taxes were listed in April but a special act was passed at the last session of the State legislature changing the listing date from April 1st to January 1.

After approving the bills, the board passed a resolution petitioning the State Highway Commission to build a new road, 2000 feet long, in Washington County near the North Carolina Pulp Company.

Vance Norman, Plymouth attorney and representative of the N. C. Pulp Company, stated to the board that due to an expansion program now underway, the old road circling the plant would, of necessity, have to be closed, causing the closing of a section of the present road.

John Eubanks, representing the town of Hassell, asked the board to petition the State Highway Commission to complete that section of Highway No. 11 which remains unimproved between Bethel and Oak City. According to the resolution passed by the board, highway officials were asked to run the paved road through the town of Hassell, serving a territory that has long needed.

(Continued on page four)

Children's Books Still On Display

The Junior Woman's club announced today that the 2,000 new children's books were still on display at the local library and that orders would be taken all during this week.

Realizing the need for a larger collection of books for children, the club is sponsoring a Share-A-Book plan. This plan is designed to enable a parent or friend to provide a book for a particular child and at the same time provide a book for hundreds of others at no additional cost.

The 2,000 books now on display were sent here for examination only by the North Carolina Library Commission.

New Toy or Bag of Fruit Admission Cost To Benefit Show at Watts Theatre December 22

Sometimes in the hustle and bustle and general excitement attending the Yuletide season one loses sight of the real meaning of Christmas Day.

The meaning goes deeper than mere giving and receiving of presents among friends, feasting and good fellowship. It is the celebration of the birth of Christ who preached that charity stands high in the eyes of Heaven.

"It is more blessed to give than to receive," He said. And so, the Kiwanis and Lions Clubs have undertaken the task of playing Santa Claus to the

less fortunate in and around Williamston during the Christmas season.

David Hix, superintendent of the local schools, with the aid of the local Scouts, will canvass the town early Saturday morning soliciting toys for the Christmas campaign. Mr. Hix said he would make an announcement in both the high school and grammar schools Friday asking that the children inform their parents of the toy canvass. Parents are requested to have their packages of old toys ready when the Scouts arrive as it will take most of the morning to cover the

town. Cooperating with the clubs, J. W. Watts has consented to run a show at 10 a. m., December 22 for the children of this town and section. No one will be admitted for cash—any child bringing a new toy or a bag of fruit will be admitted to one of the best children's programs ever booked by Mr. Watts.

The following program will be shown at the Watts Theatre: 3 color cartoons, 2 "Our Gang" comedies, Betty Boop, Popeye, 2 Terry Toons, Krazy Kai, Scrapy, Merry Melody and Looney Tune.

Local Boy Scouts Seek Permanent Hall for Meetings

The local troop of Boy Scouts is in need of a permanent hall to hold their weekly meetings. For the past several weeks they have had to hold their meetings on the steps of the postoffice. Anyone knowing of a vacant building or hall which could be used for the boys, please get in touch with the Enterprise, Mr. Wheeler Martin, or Horace Ray.

Industrial Type Of Insurance Runs Into Millions in Our State

Estimated That More Than \$1,000 Sent Out of Williamston Each Week

Robert E. Williams, writing in the News and Observer a few days ago, offered some interesting information on the industrial insurance business in North Carolina and incidentally pointed out that the Securities and Exchange Commission is now collecting detailed information about the vast business.

Not so long ago, a local agent stated that approximately \$1,000 was sent out of Williamston each week in the form of industrial insurance premiums. It was estimated at one time that 200 women and a few men working in the Columbian Peanut Company plant before the wage and hour law went into effect would make during one week just enough to pay the industrial insurance premium for that week.

Williams reviews the business in this State, as follows: Nearly one-fifth of all the people in North Carolina, men, women, children and babies, buy industrial insurance policies each but the average buyer, or the average person to whom it is sold, keeps his policy only about two years. North Carolinians pay annually \$12,000,000 in premiums on 1,700,000 industrial policies but few of them keep the policies but few of them keep the benefits.

That in brief tells the story of a type of insurance which affects more people than any other an about which the Securities and Exchange Commission is now collecting detailed information.

North Carolina is one of the important states from the standpoint of industrial insurance. The amount of industrial insurance written in North Carolina exceeds the amount of ordinary or regular insurance, but there is three times as much of the latter in force.

Technically the differences between the two types of insurance are that industrial insurance is written in smaller amounts and premiums are collected at more frequent intervals. Growing out of these differences is the difference in cost. The amount of money which will buy an ordinary life insurance policy of \$1,000 for one year, will, if spread over weekly payments, buy between \$500 and \$600 in industrial insurance for the same period.

The most striking feature of industrial insurance is the high percentage of lapses. In 1937, the last year for which statistics are available, there were 728,564 new industrial policies written aggregating \$154,695,049, or an average of about \$200 each. In the same year 620,252 policies aggregating \$124,591,985.00 were terminated, leaving in force at the end of the year 1,713,778 policies aggregating \$319,175,200. The latter figures represent only a little more than two years of new business and

(Continued on page four)

Cotton Growers Will Vote Saturday On Control Referendum

Will Decide Whether They Will Continue Efforts To Control Production

Cotton growers of North Carolina will join those of the rest of the nation in a vote Saturday, December 9, on marketing quotas for 1940. They will decide whether to continue their efforts to balance production with consumption and reduce surplus supplies piled up from the enormous crop of 1937, which was produced without a marketing quota system to control sales.

E. Y. Floyd, AAA executive officer of State College, said that all farmers who produced cotton with a staple of less than 1 1/2 inches in length this year will be eligible to vote in the referendum. He urged all eligible growers to vote at community polling places set up by the county AAA committees.

Floyd explained that when marketing quotas are in effect, the operator's marketing quota is the total production of his cotton acreage allotted, and he can sell all he produces on his allotted acres without penalty. Every cotton grower in the State has been mailed or otherwise notified of his individual allotment. If this information has not been received, communicate immediately with your county AAA office and you will be told your allotment, the Triple-A official advised farmers.

A non-cooperator, or a grower who overplants, can sell without penalty all cotton on his allotted acres, or the normal production of the allotted acres if that happens to be larger. But he will have to pay a penalty of 3 cents per pound on all cotton sold from the 1940 crop in excess of his quota.

Marketing quotas for the 1939 crop were approved last fall by 84.1 per cent of the farmers voting. Approval by two-thirds of the growers voting is necessary to put quotas into effect.

Local Bank Sends Out Savings Checks

D. V. Clayton, cashier of the Guaranty Bank and Trust Company, announced yesterday that the Christmas Savings checks were mailed to members of the club, and that a decided advance was made in the growth of the local club this year.

Approximately 200 checks were mailed ranging from \$12.50 to \$1,000.00 to people with Christmas savings.

With this outlay of Christmas money, business will no doubt take a forward step, and many of those who have been saving a certain amount each week, will now use these savings to buy Christmas gifts which otherwise would have been impossible.

Some idea of the popularity of Christmas Savings clubs in the United States may be had when it is realized that this year \$350,000,000 will be distributed to members which total more than seven million. The amount distributed is about seven per cent in excess of last year.

The 1940 series opens this month, and Mr. Clayton urges everyone to put away a little each week and prepare for Christmas in 1940.

Editor Attends U. S. Farm Bureau Meet

F. M. Manning, editor of The Enterprise, will return Thursday or Friday from Chicago, where he has been for the past week attending the American Farm Bureau Federation.

In the convention this week delegates asked for long range crop control programs and will ask for national support for the proposed farm law changes. The State Farm Bureau's executive committee directed North Carolina's delegates, before they left last Saturday, to submit a resolution favoring a special federal tax to finance the program.

They will also ask amendments to the A. A. A., which will permit farmers to vote to have crop control for three to five years, or longer, instead of only a year-to-year basis.

Large Number Enjoy U. S. Government Postal Display

A large number of citizens viewed the government's postal display truck at the local postoffice here today and unusual interest was shown in the stamp collection, which included postage stamps dating from 1847 to the present time.

Also of great interest was a miniature rotary-type stamp printing press in operation, with dies, rolls and plates used in the production of postage stamps.

Williamston was very fortunate in being a stopping point of this truck, and Ralph A. Davis, in charge of the truck, was glad to see that such interest was taken in the display.