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THE ENTERPRISE

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VOLUME XLVIII—NUMBER 33

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, April 24, 1945.

ESTABLISHED 1899

Meeting Renominates Mayor And Old Board

Opposition Did Not Materialize at Town Convention Friday

Politics Virtually Settled for Two More Years at 15-Minute Meeting

Local politics was settled for another two years at a crowded convention in the courthouse last Friday evening when an organization was perfected, rules and regulations formulated and the incumbent mayor and five members of the board of commissioners were renominated in less than eighteen minutes.

The action, virtually endorsing the program of the local administration, was handled in such a short time that quite a few hardly realized what had happened, and several stragglers met the convention on its way out.

The convention ticket will be placed before the electorate next Tuesday, May 1, the election, judging from the record, being recognized as a routine step in Democracy's simple program.

Mayor John L. Hassell opened the convention and after briefly announcing the schedule of business he named Hugh G. Horton permanent chairman. The organization for handling the business was perfected in short order, and when the convention was made ready for the business at hand, Elbert Peel was recognized and he offered the name of John L. Hassell, Mr. Peel explained that the incumbent had served consecutively in the office since 1933, and went on to say that he was on the job from early morning until late at night.

The nomination, in keeping with a fast-moving schedule, received a second from F. J. Margolis and nominations were closed seconds later. Nomination was unanimous, the nominee in a brief address expressing his appreciation for it and pledging his best efforts, if elected next Tuesday, in handling the affairs of the office.

Before calling for nominations for commissioner, Chairman Horton asked the convention what rules it would adopt. Citizen Chas. Godwin, Sr., made a motion to declare the five highest candidates the convention nominees. The motion was seconded by E. S. Peel and by the time it was carried, R. L. Coburn was recognized.

Young Man Returns To Naval Hospital

Stationed on the Oklahoma in the South Pacific where he was seriously wounded on January 6th, George Griffin, recently returned to a Naval hospital in Norfolk after spending several days near here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William R. Griffin, RFD 1, Williamston.

In the Navy for approximately two years, Griffin was serious burned on the right arm and shoulder when the battleship was bombed. In addition to the burns he sustained a shrapnel wound in the back.

According to the seaman the Oklahoma was hit three times by Jap planes and one of the hits seriously damaged the battleship. In this raid 240 men were killed.

BOND QUOTA

Martin County people are being asked to invest \$745,000 in war bonds during the seventh war loan drive opening May 14 and continuing through June 30.

The quota is \$45,000 larger than the one assigned the county during the sixth drive last November-December.

Of the \$745,000 quota, the people are asked to invest \$371,000 in Series "E" bonds. The "E" bond quota is \$126,000 larger than the one assigned the county a few months ago.

The quotas were announced last week-end by H. A. Bowen, the county's permanent bond chairman, and D. V. Clayton, chairman of the drive.

Save today and be prepared to buy a bond in May.

Battle For Berlin Continues; Expect Link-up Very Soon

Although the enemy's last battle line in the West has crumbled, fierce fighting and stiffening resistance are being reported in several sectors as the Allied Forces scramble for Berlin and to throw a ring of steel around Hitler's dying empire.

The young soldier, going overseas the early part of this year after entering the service last August, did not state where he had been held prisoner, and he had no address when he wrote to his father a little over two weeks ago. For an address, he

gave his name and army serial number. Shortly after Pvt. Etheridge was reported missing, a companion, Dewey Stalls, also of the Hassell section, wrote home and intimated that the missing youth had been taken prisoner. Nothing was heard from Pvt. Etheridge until his father and friends received the letter from him last week.

County Native Dies In Virginia Friday

Mrs. Nellie Roebuck McGee, a native of this county, died in a Petersburg hospital last Friday night following an extended illness.

The daughter of Mrs. Nellie Roebuck of RFD 3, Williamston, and the late Fred Roebuck, Mrs. McGee was born in Poplar Point Township 45 years ago, and spent her early life at the country home of her parents there.

When a young woman she was married to Benjamin Daniel and made her home in Rocky Mount. One son, Benjamin, who is now serving in the Navy in the South Pacific, survives. Her second marriage was to W. S. McGee of Petersburg. Besides her husband and son she leaves her mother, four brothers, Dr. C. T. Roebuck of Colerain, C. L. Roebuck of Norfolk, Alphonso Roebuck of Smithfield, and F. J. Roebuck of Newcastle, Pa., and four sisters, Mrs. W. E. Grimes of Greenville, Mrs. Hal Bridges and Mrs. Stewart Sprague of Williamston and Mrs. George Martin of Raleigh.

Funeral services were conducted at the family country home near here Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock by Rev. B. T. Hurley, pastor of the local Methodist church, and Elder W. E. Grimes, Primitive Baptist minister of this county. Interment was in the Spring Green Cemetery.

Eulogizes President At Kiwanis Meeting

At the regular meeting of the Kiwanis Club here last Thursday evening, Mayor John L. Hassell eulogized the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Prisoner of War Two Months, Youth of County Is Liberated

Officially reported missing on February 6, Pvt. William J. Etheridge, young Martin County man, was liberated from a prisoner of war camp in Germany by advancing American armies on April 1, his father, Mr. Dave W. Etheridge, of Near Hassell, learned last week-end.

In a letter written April 5, Pvt. Etheridge said, "... I am getting along fine at the present and am very happy. We were liberated about 10 o'clock Easter Sunday night. The G. I.'s came into the camp Monday morning about 8:00 o'clock, and gee, that was indeed a happy moment for all of us. It's wonderful to be writing home again; in fact, it's wonderful to be in G. I. hands again.

"We started eating Army chow Tuesday night and once again we have full stomachs."

Pvt. Etheridge had very little to say about his condition or the treatment he received while he was held by the Germans for almost two months. He did tell his father, "I know that God has been with me; in fact, all the fellows, because without His help we probably could not have lived through it."

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FAT STOCK SHOW

Eighteen Martin County 4-H Club members are anxiously, even nervously, awaiting the time to place their baby beef calves in the second annual Martin County Fat Stock show here the latter part of this week.

It's going to be a corking good show," according to Assistant Agent Claude Goodman, who maintains the young boys and several girls will offer exhibits that will eclipse most anything seen in the State this year.

In addition to the club entries, several individual farmers will compete for some of the show prizes.

The stock will be placed in the Planters Warehouse Thursday and made ready for judging Friday morning. The sale will be held Friday afternoon, and it is hoped that the sponsors and others interested in advancing a real livestock program in the county will take an active part in the bidding.

County housewives are interested in the sale to the extent that they hope it will ease the meat shortage locally for a time, at least.

Post Office Income Greatly Increased

Receipts at the local post office continue to climb. Postmaster W. E. Dunn announcing that the \$9,421.25 income for the first quarter this year was \$1,771.37 greater than it was in the corresponding period, a year ago.

Most of the gain was reported in the first two months of the year. Based on the three-cent sales for the most part, the income represents the sale of some over 300 thousand stamps.

While the revenue from stamp and sales was materially increased, there was also a fairly sizable increase in the money order business handled by the office last quarter. Money orders were issued in the amount of \$46,409.25, a figure slightly more than \$6,300 greater than the one recorded for the first three months in 1944.

However, the business last March was smaller by more than \$1,000 than the total handled in March, 1944.

Few Removing Old Motor Vehicle License Plates

Advised recently that it was illegal to display old license tags on their motor vehicles, quite a few owners have removed the old plates. Others have not and they are warned that the highway patrol is just before starting a drive to enforce the law.

ROUND-UP

Activities on the local police front were at a low point last week-end, the jail records showing that only two persons were detained in the county's boarding house during the period. One was arrested and jailed for drunken driving and a second was detained for allegedly possessing illegal liquor. One was a young white man, the other a middle-aged colored man.

Having Great Time In The Philippines

Recalls Few Experiences As First Aider, and Amateur Entertainer

Pfc. Bennie Weaver, the daring young son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Weaver of Williamston, and who has the knack of being happy wherever he may be, is having a great time over in the Philippines, according to a letter received a few days ago by The Enterprise. Needless to say, his letters, just as letters from any of the young Martin County men, are graciously received and carefully noted. Officially, Bennie is listed as a "doctor" and some have gotten around to calling him "duck" after the great character Donald in the cartoons.

His letter follows: "It hasn't been very long since you heard from me, but so many things have happened since that time. I just can't tell all. And, of course, some are military secrets.

"Today, I received some letters from a few friends and it seems as though everyone saw my last article in The Enterprise.

"To begin with—I've moved again and am very well satisfied with our new location. The Filipinos here really treat us fine and life isn't bad at all. I'm just afraid something will happen so that this 'set-up' of mine will be done away with.

"Here's what I'm doing: Another fellow and I are running a dispensary for this company, doing first-aid work, but sending serious cases to our captain not far from here. Anyway, we handle anything from bruises. Seriously, I like the work, although we have to have someone here 24 hours a day. Tonight happens to be Bill's (that's my friend's name) night off and I'm hoping I won't be interrupted by some GI's with a cut or something. Men, I have learned, can be such 'babies' at times, but over here you have to be mighty careful about cuts and things.

"We treat, I think, at least fifty Filipinos for one thing or another, but mostly 'tropical ulcers'.

"I know, last year this time if someone had showed me a tropical ulcer like I see each day, I would have easily gotten sick on my stomach. Some of the fellows in the company have to leave the dispensary while I'm dressing some, but I'm used to them now.

"These ulcers are caused by malnutrition and lack of medical care. These Filipinos are always bringing us things such as vegetables, fruits and souvenirs, and we even have a radio in our tent. Now they have even offered Bill and me a refrigerator which I think we are going to get some time soon. They just won't take 'no' for an answer.

Everywhere you go, children run out hollering at you, 'Hello, Joe, Victory', and hold up two fingers.

"I thought, after a while, they would get tired of doing it, but so far they haven't.

"The thing that gets me the most is that all the Filipinos that we treat, have spread the word that

Fifty-three Tires Allotted By Board

Fifty-three tires—ten for trucks, forty-two for cars and one for a tractor—were issued by the Martin County War Price and Rationing Board last Friday night.

Certificates for the purchase of truck tires were issued to the following: J. E. Andrews, Williamston Supply Co., W. I. Skinner and Co., Carolina Telephone Co.

Two Lose Lives in Car Wreck Early Saturday

BARBECUE

A big day in the Martin County Farm Bureau's annual program will be observed here next Friday when approximately 1,500 farmers are expected for the annual barbecue supper and speaking. The speaking will be held in the high school auditorium at 6 o'clock, and the supper will be served in the gymnasium immediately afterwards.

The best cooks in the county have been engaged to prepare the meal. Between 25 and 28 pigs have been engaged and they will be prepared Martin County style. Corn bread will be prepared by the bushels and gallons of slaw will be served along with other trimmings.

Alonza Edwards of Hookerton will address the meeting. Mr. Edwards, a recognized leader in the State Farm Bureau, is a member of the legislature and he will have a timely message for Farm Bureau members.

Superior Court In Second of Special Two Weeks' Term

Jury Allows Judgment in Sum of \$185 After Working All Day on Mule Case

Opening the second of a two-weeks' term of superior court for the trial of civil cases only, Judge R. D. Dixon of Edenton called the case of Mrs. Ada Brown against Dan Smith, Washington mule dealer. Nearly all day was spent in taking evidence in the case and hearing the litigants' counsel in their addresses and Judge Dixon's charge to the jury. The issues were placed in the hands of the jury about 5:30 o'clock and a decision was reached after an argument lasting the greater part of an hour. The plaintiff was given a judgment in the sum of \$185.

The plaintiff maintained that the defendant sold her a pair of mules in February of last year, that they did not come up to his guarantee, and damages in the sum of \$450 were asked. Apparently the jury had little difficulty in reaching a decision to the guarantee, but found it difficult to fix the amount of damages claimed by the plaintiff.

A shortage of jurors faced the court yesterday morning, several farmers, explaining to the judge that they had planned to transplant tobacco, asked to be excused. Deputy J. H. Roebuck scoured the town and finally rounded up enough jurymen for the court to proceed with its business.

Very few spectators were in the court during the day, and little interest was shown in the proceedings.

This morning the court was scheduled to start work on the \$16,000 suit brought by O. S. Anderson against J. B. Cherry. The plaintiff maintains that he started negotiations for the purchase of the Anderson farms recently sold near Williamston, that the defendant was to put up \$2,000 and receive 10 per cent. The plaintiff also maintains that it was agreed that the defendant was to operate the farm, pay off the debt for the consideration stipulated and deed it one-half to the plaintiff and one-half to the J. W. Anderson heirs. The plaintiff further maintains that personal property valued at about \$3,000 was on the farm at the time, that he left his half of the property there. Later it was learned that a deed had been prepared in the name of the defendant and Mrs. J. W. Anderson, the plaintiff pointing out that the defendant explained at that time that he did that so there would not be so many papers to be signed in borrowing money.

The \$25,000 damage suit brought by Mrs. Chas. Whitaker against the Carolina Delivery Company has been continued, Judge Dixon setting it for trial in June.

Local Firm Buys Purol Bulk Plant

The Harrison Oil Company recently purchased the large bulk oil plant of the Purol Oil Company on Roanoke River here. The purchase price was not disclosed.

The property, having a storage capacity of approximately 400,000 gallons, will boost the company's storage to almost one million gallons in this section.

New pipe lines have been laid for unloading oil from rail cars, transport trucks and boats.

Young Girl Injured When Struck by Car Saturday Afternoon

John Biggs, Colored, Faces Reckless and Manslaughter Charges in Court

Louis Sheppard, 25-year-old colored man, was killed and William Godard, about 29, was fatally injured when the car in which they were riding went out of control, ripped away a bridge railing at Bear Grass Swamp not far from the Martin-Beaufort boundary shortly after midnight last Friday. John Biggs, colored, owner and driver of the 1941 Plymouth, escaped with minor bruises and some shock.

Sheppard, the top of his face and head ripped away by the bridge timbers, died instantly. Godard, his lower part of his face almost torn away and part of his tongue ripped out, died in the local hospital Saturday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock without regaining consciousness.

The three colored men were last seen between 11:30 and midnight Friday in Bear Grass where they went to buy a gallon of kerosene. W. S. Hunt and W. E. Saunders of the State Highway Patrol, were called about 1:30 o'clock and they reached there a short time later to find one of the worst wrecks they had seen in months.

Driving in the direction of the Beaufort line, the car, apparently traveling at a rapid speed, skidded and tore into the railing on the left side of the bridge, knocking the corner railing post down the road 93 feet and tearing the rail timber away for a distance of thirty feet. The car looked as if it had been struck by a buzz bomb loaded with timber and splinters. The boards from the bridge railing struck Sheppard and Godard. Biggs, also known as John Reppass, was either thrown out of the car or he jumped out. The car continued its wild run into the swamp, landing on its nose and turning a somersault to land on its left side. The machine cleared the stream of water and landed in the mud and bushes.

Biggs, partially recovered from the shock, went for help, but it was not until the patrolmen reached there that the dead man and Godard were recovered from the wreckage.

Godard and Sheppard both lived in this county and Biggs lived just across the line in Beaufort.

Biggs, said to have had a small portion of wine, has been formally charged with reckless driving and manslaughter and will be given a hearing before Justice J. L. Hassell here some time next week.

Damage to the bridge was estimated at \$100 and that to the car at \$100.

Saturday afternoon, Nellie Fay Brown, 13-year-old daughter of Andrew and Olivia Brown, was badly but believed not critically hurt when she was struck by a car driven by Alton P. Campbell, young Rocky Mount man who with his parents was on his way to attend the funeral of a relative in Elizabeth City. Campbell carried the child to the hospital, suffering with a broken right arm at the elbow, a head injury and lacerations and bruises. The family removed the child from the hospital later in the day. According to reports, the child was playing beside East Main Street and started to run across it. She saw the car, stopped and then backed into its path.

County Young Man Dies Over in France

Floyd Conleton, 28-year-old colored man, died in France on April 7, presumably from wounds received several months ago, according to a message received by his parents, James and Cynthia Highsmith Conleton, last Sunday. No details were offered, and little could be learned about the soldier during the past six or seven months spent in France.

One report received by a relative a short time ago said that Conleton, a private first class, was in a hospital somewhere in France and was getting along very well. He expressed the hope that he would soon be able to return home.

A native of Pitt County, Conleton moved to this county with his parents when he was a baby, and lived in the Robertsonville community most of his life. About 1940 he went to Philadelphia and entered the service a short time later. He had been overseas about thirteen months. His parents, now making their home in Parmele, said Sunday that they had not heard from him in several months.

Correction In Jamesville Red Cross Contributions

In listing the contributions to the recent Red Cross War Fund, two errors were made. Donations were made as follows: Mrs. Watson Waters \$2, and Mrs. Sam Godard \$2.