

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

## THE ENTERPRISE

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### Mail Schedules Delayed By Big Christmas Rush

#### Eighty Thousand Stamps For Christmas Cards Sold By Local Office

Burdened by an avalanche of greeting cards and Christmas packages, mail schedules in this area have been delayed somewhat during recent days. However, with more help and with heavy overseas mailings, the postal service is expected to clear all channels on or before Christmas day. Unofficial reports state that several carloads of packages and second class matter destined for this section of the State had accumulated in Rocky Mount last Thursday, that in some terminals in Virginia as many as thirty cars were on sidetracks waiting attention.

Schedules in and out of the office are requiring double trips, and deliveries on Thursday and Friday were delayed as much as several hours. However, first class matter has been moving fairly rapidly or on about a normal schedule.

The local post office through Friday, the 20th, handled record cancellations, the peak having been reached on Thursday when 14,301 pieces of letter mail, mostly greetings, were dispatched. Up until Friday, the office had sold approximately 80,000 one and one-half cent stamps, postal authorities declaring that greeting cards handled during the past few days represented approximately 85 percent of all the letter mail handled. After handling 8,000 letter cancellations on the 16th, the office pushed on toward the peak Tuesday when 13,700 pieces of mail went out of the office.

More than 1,000 greetings were collected on each of the three rural free delivery routes in a single day, postal authorities declaring that the Christmas card business so far this season is possibly 10,000 pieces ahead of the volume handled in the corresponding period last year.

Imprecise addresses are proving a problem in the local office where more than 400 were ruled undeliverable early Friday. Most of the greetings are addressed to children without streets or numbers and in care of no one. Sent as second class matter, the cards, after so many days, will be relegated to the waste basket, for there is no provision for their return to the senders.

Very few packages were sent through the local office to members of the armed forces overseas this year as compared with the mailings last year and especially those of the year before.

The local office has several additional workers for the Christmas rush, and will remain open until 6:00 p. m. Christmas eve. No carrier or window service will be offered on Christmas day.

### Farmers Asked To List Acreage

Each farm owner in Martin county has been requested by the government to prepare for presentation at the time of his registration for 1947 tax listing a list of each crop acreage, including tenths of acres of truck. This information will be kept confidential and has no relation to taxation, being used, instead, for the purpose of agricultural education and safer guidance for county agents and farmers generally.

The list should show the total acres cultivated by tenants on separate farms, acres in improved pasture, woods, idle and other lands. A report is also asked on the number of breeding age hogs sold or slaughtered in the past 12 months and the number of tons of fertilizer to be used during this crop year.

### Large Number Real Estate Transfers Made in County

Real estate transfers in this county this year reached a record number and are believed to have represented an all-time high value, according to a review of land deeds recorded in the register of deeds office since last January 1. In addition to the land transfers, the records show a rapid return to the construction of homes for sale. It is estimated that nearly 100 homes have been built and sold in the county so far this year.

No accurate record of the amount of money involved in the transfers could be had, but according to the records the property carried a value of nearly one million dollars, or \$932,643.50, to be exact. The law does not require a record of the actual consideration advanced in a land transfer, and while a good idea of the amount may be gained from the amount of revenue stamps placed on the deed, quite a few of them are without stamps. One of the transfers involved nearly 10,000 acres of timber lands, but the deed lists only \$100

consideration, more or less. While the listings show less than a million dollar valuation, the true worth or money involved in the transfers will, it is conservatively estimated, approximate three or four million dollars. Some of the transfers listed the amounts as high as \$94,000.00, but a majority of them merely listed "\$10, more or less."

By actual count there were 529 land transfers in the county this year up until December 20. Quite a few of the transfers represented town lots in Williamston and Robersonville. The following figures show the number of transfers, by townships, the first figure representing the number of transfers and the second showing the given amounts: Jamesville, 54 and \$67,363; Williams, 17 and \$26,505; Griffins, 10 and \$9,735; Bear Grass, 14 and \$42,300; Williamston, 270 and \$285,725; Cross Roads, 18 and \$27,165; Robersonville, 60 and \$305,425.50; Poplar Point, 4 and \$48,500; Hamilton, 48 and \$35,209; and Goose Nest, 37 and \$64,586.

### County Has Few Holiday Weddings But Record In 1946

#### Double Wedding Fails To Materialize Reports Re- ceived Here State

Although Cupid made more progress than he did a year ago, pre-Christmas weddings in this county did not come up to the number anticipated in this post-war period. It is true that more marriage licenses have been issued in this county so far in 1946 than in any other year on record, but the pre-Christmas season is apparently to show a decrease in the marital business.

Licenses were issued to two young Bertie County brothers by Register J. Sam Giesinger on the 17th to wed two sisters. It was reported, however, that one of the couples was a bit superstitious and chose not to have a double wedding.

Since the 10th of this month thirteen licenses were issued, seven to white couples, including one who holds the plans a secret, and six to colored couples:

White: Clifton Bradway of Palmyra and Lillie Hathaway of Hobgood, Herman Nathaniel Liley and Doris Lucille Jones, both of RFD 1, Jamesville, Geo. G. Edmondson and Grace Jenkins Roberson, both of Robersonville, James Russell Edmondson of RFD 3, Williamston, and Hilda May Wynn of RFD 1, Robersonville, Roy L. Bowen of Merry Hill and Rosa Leigh Dunlow of RFD 3, Windsor, and Harvey C. Bowen of Merry Hill and Hazel C. Dunlow of RFD 3, Windsor.

Colored: Turner R. Howell of Everetts and Ned Virginia Bonner of RFD 3, Williamston, Ernest Jenkins, Jr., and Velma Lee Callier, both of RFD 2, Robersonville, Earl Cortez Roberson and Ollie Mae Williams, both of RFD 3, Williamston, James H. Hunter and Doris Iora Andrews, both of

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### Car License Sale Holding Its Own

The sale of 1946 motor vehicle tags at the local bureau of the Carolina Motor Club in Harrison and Carstarphen's insurance office is advancing fairly rapidly, the managers said late Friday. Up until that time 1,414 tags had been sold, 1,060 for cars, 184 for trucks and 170 for trailers.

Up until the same date a year ago, the bureau sold 1,458 tags, 1,070 for cars, 197 for trucks and 191 for trailers.

### COLLECTIONS

Placed at \$133,128.00 as of Saturday, December 21, tax collections for the current year in Martin County are running approximately \$14,000 ahead of those reported in the corresponding period of 1945, according to Tax Collector M. L. Peel. Well over half, or 4,000, of the tax payers in the county, have settled their accounts, leaving \$71,643.43 to be paid. The collector explained that 440 more taxpayers had settled their 1946 accounts than had paid up the 1945 accounts up until December 21, a year ago.

### Tax List-Takers Named In County

Making preparations for the county's 1947 tax year, Tax Supervisor M. Luther Peel this week named the list-takers for the ten townships. The supervisor and possibly representatives of the board of county commissioners will meet with the list-takers in the courthouse on the morning of December 30 to go over the plans for the new tax year.

With one exception all the list-takers are succeeding themselves. Mr. Jesse F. Crisp is to handle the listing in Goose Nest Township, succeeding Ruppert Rawls who is attending school.

Other appointments for the townships follow:  
O. W. Hamilton, Jamesville; C. L. Daniel, Williams; W. Tom Roberson, Griffins; Wheeler Rogerson, Bear Grass; O. S. Anderson, Williamston; Buck Ayers, Cross Roads; H. S. Everett, Robersonville; L. G. Taylor, Poplar Point; L. R. Everett, Hamilton.

### Asks To Be Sent To Reformatory

Motherless and all but ignored by his father, a small Martin County colored boy a few days ago called Sheriff C. B. Roebuck and asked to be carried to a reformatory. The boy, while not so keen on entering a training school, explained that he had no place to go, and that he was anxious to have a roof over his head and something to eat Christmas.

The case was referred to the welfare department, but it was learned that the institution was receiving no more inmates before Christmas.

Without parental guidance, the lad wanders around, picking up things in homes and stores, one report said.

### The Influence Of One Solitary Life Cited By Writer

#### Affected Life of Men More Than All Armies, Navies And Parliaments

An unknown author, possibly during a Christmas period, some time ago recognized the value of One Solitary Life, and penned his appraisal. Distributed by the Army and Navy department of the YMCA, one of the agencies of the USO, the appraisal, no doubt, will prove timely at this Christmas time. It follows:

"Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village. He worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty, and then for three years he was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never went to college. He never put his foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but himself. He had nothing to do with this world except the naked power of His divine manhood. While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth while He was dying—and that was His coat. When He was dead He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

"Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone and today He is the centerpiece of the human race and the leader of the column of progress.

"I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as that One Solitary Life."

### Community Sing Christmas Eve

A community sing will be held, weather permitting, Christmas Eve at 8:30 p. m. on the Presbyterian Church lot adjoining the Nativity scene. The singing will be led by the combined church choirs of the town and the public is invited to participate.

It is planned to rope off a section of the street to accommodate spectators.

Russell T. Roebuck, local musician and choir director, will be in charge of the sing, it was announced.

### GREETINGS

Despite their repeated use down through the years, the holiday messages appearing in this edition of The Enterprise and wishing for all a joyous season still have a new note and carry a renewed hope. Without them, surely something important in the year's events would have been overlooked.

Aside from business and every-day dealings, Williamston's merchants and other business operators pause to express their best wishes for an enjoyable holiday season. Read and note the messages appearing in today's issue, for, after all, what's more important than the knowledge that someone wishes for you and yours a Very Merry Christmas.

### Political System Needs Repairing, Writer Declares

#### Wm. Umstead To Succeed J. W. Bailey; Senator Leaves Large Estate

A system that permits the election of government representatives with opposite aims and policies is in need of repair, Jennings Perry, New York columnist, wrote in commenting on the record of the late J. W. Bailey in the United States Senate. Perry, expressing the hope a liberal would be named to succeed Mr. Bailey in the Senate, penned his thoughts before Wm. Umstead was appointed by Governor R. G. Cherry to the position made vacant by Mr. Bailey's death on Sunday, December 15.

Mr. Bailey, according to reports, left an estate valued at approximately a quarter million dollars.

Perry's comments on the late senator's record follows:

The death of Sen. Josiah W. Bailey of North Carolina reminds us that our electoral system, particularly as it operates in the South, often doesn't make sense.

The good Senator (he liked to be called Josh by his colleagues and—in election years—by his constituents) won his seat in 1930 on a point of party regularity. His opponent, the crafty Sen. Furnifold Simmons, had, two years earlier, made the unwashable mistake of supporting Herbert Hoover. The Simmons mistake was doubly damnable, of course, for not only had he lent a hand to a Republican, but the economy under that Republican President, had gone over the precipice. Want and fear had begun to ramble everywhere. Bailey had the advantage of being able to ride in on the first protest wave against a planless, do-nothing Administration.

It might have been expected that he would have put his shoulder to the wheel of governmental reform, that by the time Franklin Roosevelt arrived the new North Carolina Senator already would have hitched his traces short for the desperate pull that yanked this country out of its hell-bent depression. After all, had he not campaigned against that "blundering Hoover," against the "wool-headed Republicans?"

I suppose that, since he was elected before Roosevelt, Sen. Bailey considered himself exempt from loyalty to the great leader of his party and to the invigorating program he—and the times—brought to it. (Other pre-Roosevelt Southern Senators—George of Georgia, Glass of Virginia, for instance—were capable of that rationalization.) At any rate, as events proved, Sen. Bailey would have found the atmosphere in Washington far more congenial if the Republicans had remained in power after 1932. For almost from the beginning of the Democratic Administration, the man who had been elected on the first wave of

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### Attempt To Rob Shop Is Foiled

Working his way up the side of a shed to an adjoining building and reaching the roof, some one attempted to enter the Proctor Shop on Main Street here during last Wednesday night, according to information coming from the police department.

One light to a sky light on the building roof was partly removed when the robbery attempt was foiled possibly by officers while making an inspection of the back lots. Officers are of the opinion that the person removing the light thought he was over the H. D. Peele Jewelry Company store.

The attempt followed by slightly more than a week a series of robberies yet unsolved here.

### Market Here Handles Half Million Bags 1946 Peanuts

Before closing for the holiday on the 23rd, the local market had handled approximately half million bags of peanuts, according to conservative estimates made last week-end by independent buyers and cleaners. It was also estimated that between 85 and 90 percent of the crop has already moved to market, that only scattered activity is to be expected in the market next month. Reports from the farms indicate that between 98 and 99 percent of the crop has been harvested.

Peanuts moved to market rapidly on Friday and Saturday before the scheduled closing, farmers explaining that their tenants were anxious to sell their crops and settle their accounts before Christmas.

While the price trend continu-

es to hold between 8 1-2 to 10 cents, there was a slightly stronger tone in trading transactions during the past few days, but most of the sales were averaging right at 9 1-2 cents.

No official figures are available at this time, but reliable estimates indicate that less than three-fourths of a crop was produced in the county this season. In some areas, production was just about normal, but in others it averaged hardly five bags per acre, and in still other sections quite a few farmers did not even dig their crops.

The market here has been patronized by growers in nearly every producing county in this state, and fairly large shipments have been received direct from farmers in South Carolina and Virginia.

### Farmer Hears From War Camp Prisoner

#### NO PAPER FRIDAY

Following the delivery of this edition, The Enterprise will immediately start making preparations to suspend all operations until Saturday, the 28th. This edition goes to press in advance of the regular schedule and there'll be no second paper Christmas week, making it possible for The Enterprise force to enjoy a week-long holiday, the only one in the year's schedule.

After enjoying a few days' rest, the force plans to return on the 28th, reopen shop and make ready for the next edition of the paper on Monday, December 30.

### Record Crops Are Reported In 1946

While tobacco and peanut production was not up to expectations in this county, American farmers, as a whole, harvested the biggest crops in history this year.

Closing the book for 1946, the Agriculture Department reported that 1946 crop production was 7 percent above last year, 2 percent above the previous record of 1942, and 26 percent above the 1923-32 average.

Corn and wheat both topped previous records. The corn crop totaled 3,287,927,000 bushels, compared with the record harvest of 3,228,000,000 bushels in 1944.

The wheat crop totaled 1,155,715,000 bushels, compared with last year's record of 1,108,224,000.

Average corn production from 1935 to 1944 was 2,608,499,000 bushels; average wheat production, 843,692,000 bushels. (Wheat and corn average 35-40 bushels per ton.)

### Enfield Man Wins New Automobile

G. L. Taylor of Enfield, holding number 3644, won the new 1946 Ford automobile at the drawing at the Kiwanis Club Christmas dance in the local gym Friday night at 11 o'clock.

Second prize in the benefit program was won by Duck Hardison of Williamston with the number 3128. This prize was a new Bendix washing machine.

The third prize, a Philco radio, was won by Miss Kathryn Taylor of Williamston with the lucky number 1025.

The event Friday night was the last of the kind scheduled for this year in Williamston.

### Possible To Rule Out Diphtheria In All Children

#### Early Injections Immunize The Child Against The Disease For Life

The months when diphtheria is most prevalent are November, December and January. But there need be no diphtheria months at all, if parents of young children take certain fundamental precautions against the disease. Science has gone far toward conquering diphtheria, but it cannot complete the job without the cooperation of parents.

At birth, 85 percent of all children have immunity to diphtheria derived from the mothers. This immunity disappears at six to nine months. Most cases of the disease occur between the second and fifth year. It is of the utmost importance that children in this age group be protected against diphtheria. It would be ideal if all were immunized as routine practice between the ages of six months and two years.

Many children exposed to diphtheria escape it altogether. A simple skin test, called the Schick test, is used to find out whether the antibodies which prevent diphtheria are in the blood. If not, there should be no delay in starting immunization "shots" to prevent any possibility of contracting this highly infectious and dangerous disease.

Diphtheria toxoid or toxin-antitoxin is injected under the skin, usually in three doses at intervals of three to four weeks. If a Schick test taken six months later does not show immunity, the injections should be repeated. Immunity gained in this way lasts, as a rule, for years. It is also important to have the injections given immediately when anyone, of whatever age, not known to be immune, is exposed to the disease.

Sometimes diphtheria injections cause a string reaction which appears like a mild case of the disease itself. There may be fever, vomiting and joint pains. While the reaction is seldom severe, the doctor should be consulted if these symptoms appear.

The danger signals of diphtheria are a severe sore throat, fever, slight chilliness, aching pains in the back and limbs. There may be convulsions in very young children. In the event of these symptoms, call the doctor at once. If there is difficulty in breathing, rush the patient to the nearest hospital. It is important to begin treatment promptly, as the danger of death increases with each hour of delay.

The wise mother who has had her children immunized will not need to worry about diphtheria.

### New Firm To Open Creosoting Plant

Messrs. Wallace Tarkenton and Marion (Monk) Cobb are rapidly completing plans for opening a new industry here on or about the first of next February, it was learned this week.

With a building already under construction, the two young men plan to operate a creosote treating plant and offer a general wood preserving service, it was stated. The plant is being located in the old fair grounds property just across the road from Roberson's Slaughter House.

Designed to meet a growing need, the plant will specialize in the treatment of fence posts and will treat all kinds of building materials against decay and termites.

Much of the equipment for the plant is already available and other materials are being moved to the site.

No cost estimates were made available, but the plant will be modern and constructed to meet approved specifications.

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