THE ENTERPRISE IS READ BY OVER 3,000 MARTIN COUNTY FAMILIES TWICE EACH WEEK

# THE ENTERPRISE

**VOLUME XLIX—NUMBER 104** 

**Business Volume In County Slightly Less** 

Buyers Were Said HOLHDAY **To Have Been Bit Cautious In Acts** 

**Liquor Sales Broke Record During the Pre-Holiday Period In County** 

While business houses handled one of the largest volumes of sales on record, buyers were said to have been a bit more cautious in making their purchases during the recent holiday period in this county, according to an incomplete survey of activities just reported. In some merchandising fields, sales set new records, but in others the total did not match in others the total did not match that reported for the 1945 holiday Passes Following period.

"We have large inventories, but in so many instances we just did not seem to have exactly what the shoppers wanted," several business operators explained. Others pointed out that war prices were being questioned for certain types of goods. However, the main gift or novelty counters reported sales comparable to those

made at any previous time. The weakening peanut market by the county's alcoholoic beverage control system. Complete figures could not be had immemas handled sales in the amount of \$27,828.05. It is conservatively estimated that legal liquor store days exceeded \$50,000, that sales prior to that time seldom reached son of the late James Thomas \$5,000. It was pointed out that Gardner and Polly Ann Griffin stocks were low during the Gardner, he spent his entire life

With a few exceptions, Williamston stores and offices will observe Wednesday, New Year's Day, as a holiday. No mail deliveries will be effected and all government offices, including the farm and home agents', will close for the day. County offices will be open on a part-time basis,

according to one report. A few stores, their owners explaining that deliveries had been scheduled for the day, and heavy industry will not close

**Farmer Of County** 

**Funeral Held December 22** In Church Near Here **For Henry Gardner** 

Funeral services were conducted at 2:30 o'clock on Sunday, December 22, for J. Henry Gardner,

possibly made many buyers a bit who died at the home of his more cautious when they went to daughter, Mrs. Warren Leggett, make purchases, but, at the same in Bear Grass Township early in time, record sales were reported the evening of December 20. The services, held in the Riddick's Grove Baptist Church, were conducted by Dr. Ira D. S. Knight, diately, but the Williamston store local minister, in the absence of in the eight days before Christ- the regular pastor, Rev. W. B. Harrington. Interment was in the Riddicks Grove Churchyard cemetery. He was a member of the sales in the county for the eight Baptist church for eighteen years. Mr. Gardner, a well-known farfor December will break all re- mer and citizen, was 56 years old cords. The Williamston store had and had been a hard worker up its record day on Christmas eve until about a year ago when he day when the sales amounted to was tagen ill. His condition had \$5,454.50. Sales for any one day been serious for some time. The

Year's Illness

retired Martin County farmer

possibly a bit more liberal, that ed. to 9 1-2 cents.

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, December 31, 1946

### OVER 3.000 MARTIN COUNTY FAMILIES TWICE EACH WEEK

THE ENTERPRISE IS READ BY

**ESTABLISHED 1899** 

No Bad Accidents

**Reported During** 

**Christmas** Period

**Combined Church Choirs** 

**Give Holiday Program** 

**Climax Christmas Eve** 

There were no bad accidents

and as far as it could be ascer-

tained no one was hurt in any

way in the county during the

holiday season which old-timers

described as one of the quietest

seen in many years. Recognized

as the first real post war holiday

season, the period was marked

or its good cheer. There was

more visiting among neighbors

this year than possibly in any

other period since the outbreak

of war, and everyone seemed to

Sorrow crept into several

homes in the county when loved

ones passed away, and sickness

altered schedules and plans for

Williamston reported two fire

alls during the period, and they

vere of little or no consequence.

There were only two minor

ighway accidents and no one was

nurt in either of them. Traffic,

while very light on Christmas

day, moved without incident in

fairly large volume on the other

Following the various school

and church programs, the com-

pined church choirs of Williams-

on rendered a special program

on the lawn of the Presbyterian

burch Christmas eve night at

8:30 o'clock. The program, di-

rected by Russell T. Roebuck and

lasting just half an hour, attract-

ed several hundred spectators, in-

cluding quite a few from other

days in the week.

others

## A Happy New Year

As the New Year Cupid gaily rings in 1947, let us pause a moment and resolve to make this year one of fulness and happiness in our relations to each other. Let us help each other achieve love, happiness, peace and prosperity this year and every year to follow.

### THE ENTERPRISE

Peanut Prices Hold After **Reopening Of The Markets** 

Peanut prices were reported to- | at the present time. Deliveries day to be holding their own after were comparatively light just bethe markets had reopened follow- fore the markets closed for the ing the Christmas holidays. It holidays, and few lots were offerwas intimated that grading was ed at the reopening, it was learn-

prices ranged as high as \$10.05 Up until the holidays, an estiper hundred pounds. It was point- mated half million bags of pea ed out, however, that the market nuts had been handled by the loranged down to around 8 1-2 cal market from the 1946 crop. cents per pound with most of the Hardly more than 1,500 or 2,000 offerings going for about 9 1-4 have moved since the reopining. Apparently uncertain about the The reopening of the markets economic trend, the cleaned goods

SPECIAL SERVICE There will be a union New Year's Eve Service at the Methodist Church Tuesday, beginning at 11:30 p. m. and closing as the New Year

comes in. A short appropriate service is planned for this important occasion. The public is invited to attend.

Native Of County **Died Last Week** 

Milton E. Bennett, native of

**Holiday Observance** Very Quiet-in-County

#### Post-holiday traffic is believed to have set an all-time record on the highways of this section last Sunday when thousands of visitors traveled through here en route to their homes in various states. In addition to the large holiday traffic that day, hundreds of northerners drove through here en route to Florida just

RECORD

ahead of the cold wave promised by the weather men. Members of the highway patrol, covering several hundred miles of highway, declared they did not see the first violation, that travel was

**Prominent County** Farmer Died In of war, and e enjoy himself. Hospital Monday Funeral At Home Near Oak

orderly.

**City Tuesday For Les**ter L. Keel

Lester L. Keel, prominent farmer and highly respected citizen of the Oak City section, died early on Monday of last week in a Stranger Wanders Rocky Mount hospital following an-illness of only a few days. The victim of a heart attack, Mr Keel was removed to the hospital soon after he was taken ill a few days

A native of Pitt County, Mr. Keel was 55 years of age and had lived near Oak City most of his life. He was a son of Mr. W. Gray Keel, also of near Oak City, and the late Mrs. Keel. He was a member of the Christian church in Oak City where he was held in

towns and communities. One block of the main street was roped off from Smithwick to Watts ried to Miss Marie Lanier of Bel- Street for the duration of the

Special programs and services n the several churches were well

Aimlessly On The Highways Friday <sup>after h</sup> before.

Her Identity Established, **Colored Girl Returned To Fremont Home** 

Apparently unbalanced mentally, a young colored woman whose name is believed to be Christine high esteem as a citizen and Armstrong and who is about 21 neighbor. In early manhood he was mar-

years of age, was found wandering on the highways of this secttion early last Friday evening. haven and she survives with two program. When taken into custody about children, a son, Francis Keel of

period, that sales possibly would have been even larger had the stocks been more plentiful.

While business in this section markets started breaking rapidly from one to ten cents below the near Williamston. record. In Richmond, cured hams were offered for 49 cents a pound. Black pepper was on the market at 12 cents per can, and soap was said to have been plentiful in the larger stores at reduced prices. No marked change in prices was noted locally, however, the dealers explaining that they were handling many items at a loss. Williamston's post office broke all records when it handled during the ten days before Christmas (Continued on page eight)

**Lions Maintain Cheer Program** 

The local Lions Club conducted its annual program of Christmas needy cases. The baskets consisted largely of fruits, nuts, candies trailor, loaded with Christmas and some groceries, and were demittee.

The baskets were assembled by the committee members Sunday afternoon before Christmas, and were well received by the recipients.

**Returns** Home After Long Stay In Hospital

for a broken hip. He will have at \$150 by Cpl. W. T. Simpson along very well. little use of himself for another who investigated. six weeks, doctors state. He was accompanied home by Messrs. home without an accident, then ment, and was thought to be get-

Barnhill. Budesty

in this county, mostly near Williamston. Surviving are his widow, the

former Miss Lillian Wiggins; two held its own fairly well, the food sons, James Thomas Gardner and in the North. Turkeys, offered daughters, Mrs. Warren Leggett in the North. Turkeys, offered and Miss Millie Ann Gardner, and Two Fire Calls price from 65 to 35 cents a pound two sisters, Mrs. Archie Council in New York. Butter prices fell and Mrs. Van Council, both of

### **Two Minor Auto** Wrecks Reported holiday season, but neither of the

quence. While at least fifteen persons had their lives snuffed out in fatal Sam Andrews home just across accidents on North Carolina high-

ways at Christmas time, only two minor road accidents were reported in this county. No one was building. Before the fire was dishurt and property damage was limited, according to reports recovered, it had burned a hole in

leased by members of the highway patrol.

per story with smoke. Neighbors The first of the two accidents reported in this county took place a few miles west of Williamston on Highway 64 at 12:30 o'clock

Christmas morning. Mildred Marie Mann, colored of Norfolk, was driving Earl Macklin's Chevrolet o'clock. cheer for the less fortunate of the sedan west on the highway when community during the holidays, the left rear door on Spencer distributing forty-eight baskets to Eason's 1926 Plymouth flew open and hooked the Norfolk car. A

were burned, but the damage was [~~ packages and attached to the negligible. livered Christmas morning by a Macklin car. was wrecked and committee of about twelve mem- parcels were scattered over the bers of the club. Lions W. Clyde highway. Damage to each of the Griffin and W. Clyde Manning machines was estimated at about **Local Attorney** highway. Damage to each of the served as co-chairmen of the com- \$100 by Patrolman W. E. Saund-

**Much Improved** ers who made he investigation. Eason, colored of near Williamston, was booked for operating a Suffering a relapse last Wed-motor vehicle without a driver's nesday, Mr. Wheeler Martin,

well-known eastern Carolina atlicense. Later that morning Patrolman torney and civic leader, was re-J. E. Warren, stationed in Eliza- moved to a Rocky Mount hospital beth City, was driving south on the following afternoon. He was the Robersonville-Stokes High- quite ill for several days, but late way when his car was struck by a reports from his bedside state

Garland Barnhill returned to colored man alleged to have been that his condition is much imhis home here last Saturday from under the influence of intoxi- proved. It was explained that he Raleigh where he spent six weeks cants. No one was hurt and the had had no severe pain since early in a hospital receiving treatment property damage was estimated Sunday and that he was getting

Mr. Martin was in the institu-

If all the Sunday traffic got tion some weeks ago for treat-Henry D. Harrison and Leman there should be none at any time, ting along very well until the rebecause thousands were traveling. lapse.

found the crop just about gone market, while holding its own, is this county, died in a Roanoke 8:00 o'clock that evening by Pa- the home, and a daughter, from the farms, one buyer stating acting with much caution, it was Rapids hospital last Wednesday trolman Whit E. Saunders, the Dorothy Keel, student at East less than five percent of the 1946 made in very small quantities and after a short illness. The last rites young woman, well dressed and Carolina Teachers' College, Willie Jesse Gardner, and two production remained on the farms the market was said to be dull.

Season Near End **During Holiday** For Some Game

Local volunteer firemen were The season for taking deer and called out only twice during the squirrel ends at the close of the day, January 1 in this section, acalarms was of any great conse-

Some children, playing at the and Development.

It will be lawful to hunt quail Sweet Water Creek in Williams and wild turkeys through Jan-Township, threw a fire cracker on uary 1, and raccoon may be taken the porch roof and fired the through February 15, it was an-

### the roof and filled most of the up- Dogs Kill Number of Chickens On a Farm

and other friends, gathered there Stray dogs attacked and killed for Christmas Day dinner, went into action and put the fire out a goodly number of chickens on just before the fire fighting the form of Mrs. Mamie Rober- Oak City. equipment reached the home. The son in the county a few days ago. alarm was sounded here at 1:40 The widow took action and killed one of the degs, and Sheriff C. B.

Thursday afternoon at 4:15 Roebuck ordered another one o'clock the firemen were called killed. "I shot one of the dogs o'clock the firemen were called killed. "I shot one of the dogs to a grass fire just off West twice after I killed him, I was so State College Church Street. A few fence posts mad," Mrs. Roberson said.

#### TAX LISTING

Meeting in the courthouse Monday, the ten township tax list-takers completed plans for placing all property in the county on the books for 1947 tax assessments. Schedules of values for listing personal property were not immediately announced by Supervisor M. L. Peel who explained that the new 1946 auto guide books would be used in listing motor vehicles for the new year.

The listing work is scheduled to get underway in several townships this week, and in others later in the month, according to announced schedules. Property will be listed as to its owners and values as of January 1.

were conducted in a Roanoke of nice appearance, was standing Greenville. Also surviving are Rapids funeral home last Friday No. 17 near the Old Mill Inn. Howard S. Keel, of near Oak City. morning at 11 o'clock by Rev. Ed- Traffic was moving around her, Funeral services were conductmond Berkley, rector of All and one report stated that she Saints Episcopal Church. Inter- was barely missed by several cars. noon, December 24, at 3:00 o'clock ment was in the family cemetery on the old home farm between dress or tell who were her peo- Cemetery. His pastor, the Rev.

nett was 63 years of age. Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Peel. After humble questioning ter of Robersonville, conducted Bessie A. Bennett of Roanoke Ra- for quite a while, the jailer and the last rites. cording to schedules fixed by the pids; four sons, Milton O., of Ar- his wife pieced together bits of

information about the stranger, N. C. Department of Conservation lington, Va., John E., of Pullman, but it was not until a broadcast Ore., Gordon D., of Arlington, was made over the highway pa-Va., Charles of Corpus Christi, trol radio that a lead was establ Texas, and three grandchildren. ished in the case Sunday. The son of the late John Ben-

Few details could be learned nett and wife, Mr. Bennett had lived in Roanoke Rapids for a even then, but it is believed that rampage, five young colored men number of years. Besides his im- the girl was on her way from the were charged in court Monday mediate family he is survived by Fremont or Goldsboro section to with wrecking several store wintwo brothers, John and Bryant visit relatives in Norfolk, that dows and damaging other prop-Bennett of Oak City, and three she lost her way here and turned erty in Everetts late last Satursisters, Mrs. Virginia Stinnette to the highways. One report day night. Walking along the of Williamston, Mrs. N. Bellamy stated that she never knew her town's main street, William J. of Raleigh and Mrs. Manning of father, that she did not live with Keel, 20, Henry Godard, 21, James her mother, but that she was Godard, 20, Jake Spruill, 22, and

Mr. Bennett was held in high making her home with relatives Lloyd Bonner, 18, were charged esteem in both his native and or friends in the Fremont section. with breaking a crate of milk While officers tried vainly to bottles in a store doorway. The

adopted counties.

her clothing and crawling around Club In Meeting on her hands and knees in the John Cherry store, with knocking a hole in J. S. Ayers' \$150 store tiny cell.

chose to sleep on the cement floor. streets, the vandals were said to The Martin County State College Club held its regular meeting When taken into custody for Friday evening, December 13, at her own protection, the girl, ac the George Reynolds Hotel. A companied by officers and leading movie of the State-Duke game colored citizens of the town, carwas shown by Babe Wood, line coach at State.

Members and guests present were: Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Brandon, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Eubanks, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Goodman, Mr. and

Mrs. H. T. Highsmith, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Kimball, Mr. and Mrs.

William K. Lilley, stationed H. P. Mobley, Mr. and Mrs. D. G. with the U.S. Information Serv-Modlin, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Parker, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Pope, Mr. ice at the American Legation in booked for trial in Judge J. C. cemetery, near the home. and Mrs. C. N. Rogers, Mr. and Copenhagen, Denmark, spent the Smith's county court for trial on Surviving besides the parents, Mrs. J. G. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. H. holidays in the county with his Monday. Spruill, saddled with are five brothers, Raymond, G. Horton, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kader Lil- the vandalism charged, drew 18 James, Jahugh, Paul and Mitchell, Martin, L. W. Cone, W. T. Craw- ley. The young man, in foreign ford, V. B. Hairr, J. L. Hassell, C. service for several years, leaves was sentenced to the roads for six Yvonne, Mittie and Vata Modilin. W. Peel, Frank Weaver, H. W. shortly to continue work at his months for interfering with an all of the home. (Pop) Taylor and Coach Wood. station.

in the middle of U. S. Highway his father, and one brother, Mr. ed from the home Tuesday after-Unable to give her name, ad- and interment was in the Bethel Hamilton and Oak City. Mr. Ben- ple, the girl muttered incoherent Mr. Thomas, assisted by Rev. words to Jailer Roy Peel and Mrs. James M. Perry, Christian minis-

attended, and there were very few disorders of any kind reported. The shooting of fireworks was possibly more limited than at any other time in years, excepting the war period when powder could be had only at a premium. Reports declare that possibly there never was a time in history when more people in this county got so much. There were the less fortunate, of course, but there was enough and more to care for their needs during the holiday period. New bicycles were on the streets and highways in greater



**III In Hospital** Taken suddenly ill Christmas

morning, Mayor John L. Hassell was removed to a Washington hospital the following morning, A victim of high blood pressure, Mr. Hassell had dressed and was making ready to leave for Oxford to spend the day with friends when he was forced to retire.

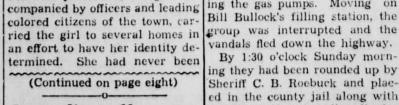
locate her people, the girl's con-dition became worse rapidly. By least one of the group wild, ap-Apparently getting along very well, the mayor is able to sit up early Sunday she was tearing at parently. They were charged with and receive company. He had a similar attack some months ago, breaking out a window in the and had been getting along very iny cell. Sunday night she apparently window. Turning off the main well up until just a short time before he was stricken a second

> Young Child Dies Near Jamesville

By 1:30 o'clock Sunday morn-Richard Allen Modlin, 10 days ing they had been rounded up by old, died at the home of his par-Sheriff C. B. Roebuck and placents, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Modlin, ed in the county jail along with near Jamesville last Friday, the James Brown who allegedly in- victim of a pneumonia attack. Funeral services were conduct-

terfered with the officer's work. Several of those arrested and ed at the home Saturday morning jailed are said to have belonged at 11:00 o'clock by Daniel Hardito the 52-20 club. They were son, and burial was in the family

months on the roads, and Brown and four sisters, Margaret,



### **County Young Man Home From Denmark**

officer.





have moved over to John Mob-

ley's filling station and damag-

ing the gas pumps. Moving on

Bill Bullock's filling station, the

