

# To One and All MERRY CHRISTMAS!

# 1947

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

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## Tax Authorities Fix Schedule Of Values

### Check Inventory Listings Against State Income Tax

### Most Personal Property To Be Listed At About Two-thirds Value

Meeting in the courthouse last Saturday morning, Martin County's tax list-takers formulated plans for handling property listings for 1948. A schedule of values, holding in the main to two-thirds of the actual value, was fixed for personal properties, Supervisor M. L. Peel advising the list-takers to value real estate improvements at about what other properties were listed in 1947. There will be no revaluation of old real estate in 1948, unofficial reports stating that the real property values likely are to be revised in 1949.

No marked changes were made in the list of values adopted for personal property holdings, but the list-takers were advised that all inventories would be checked against state income tax returns. This action, it was pointed out, is deemed necessary in the face of discrepancies found in the listings made a year ago. Stocks of merchandise and other inventories are to carry two-thirds of their actual value for the purpose of general taxation.

While the producers have to list no crops grown in 1947, they are to list those crops if produced prior to 1947. Processors and speculators having farm crops in their possession as of January 1, 1948, are to list such holdings.

Cotton, the list-takers decided, is to be placed on the tax books at \$100 per bale. Peanuts are to be listed at \$6 a bag, the listings to be based on two-thirds of the actual inventory. All types of lumber are to carry a tax value of \$30 per thousand feet. Tractors are to be listed at two-thirds of their actual cost value, less depreciation at the rate of ten percent for each year up to a certain point. Tobacco sticks, placed on the books in 1947 at the rate of \$8 per thousand, are to be listed at \$5 per thousand in 1948. Meat and lard are to carry a tax value of 20 cents per pound, while live hogs are to be valued at 10 cents per pound. Number 1 horses are worth for taxation purposes, \$150, and No 1 milk cows are to be listed at \$300. Number 1 milk cows are to be valued at \$100 each. Goats and sheep carry the same value in the eyes of the list-takers, the

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## Mrs. Whitaker Dies Near Here

Mrs. W. L. Whitaker, 59, died at her home near here Thursday at noon of a cerebral hemorrhage. Funeral services were held from the Christian Chapel Church at Cross Roads by Rev. Warren Davis, Saturday afternoon. Burial was in the family cemetery.

Surviving are her husband, and daughters, Mrs. Charlie White, Mrs. Roy Whitehurst, Mrs. Dennis Briley, Mrs. S. W. Briley, Mrs. J. P. Whitehurst, all of Bethel, Mrs. Elsworth Brantley, Mrs. Bill Bullock of Williamston, and Idell Whitaker of the home; two sons, Lester Whitaker of Bethel and Clifton Whitaker of Davidson. Also, two sisters, Mrs. D. A. Osborne of Robersonville and Mrs. Reubey Gray of Norfolk, Va.; two brothers, Simon Rogers and Levy Rogers of Robersonville; 36 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

### SHORT OF GOAL

The annual sale of TB Christmas seals Monday was running about \$850 short of the \$2,500 goal, but Chairman Chas. H. Manning expressed the opinion that the drive would succeed.

Williamston reported \$1,250, and Griffins has raised about \$90. No reports have been received from Hamilton, Jamesville and Robersonville. The drive was said to be trailing last year's sales in Bear Grass, Cross Roads and Goose Nest. The sale of bangles is hardly 60 percent of what it was last year, and the sale of seals in the colored schools is about 40 percent under last year's figures.

"We hope to complete the drive this week and exceed the quota," Chairman Manning said.

## Old Customs Are Basis For Modern Christmas Season

### Composed of Threads from Countries All Over The World

Christmas in the United States is composed of threads from many countries and reflects their customs in church and home.

The traditional English Christmas calls for family reunions, gifts, carols, parties and a pantomime for the children in a season of general good will. Although many of the old and picturesque English customs have faded, they still contribute to the modern holiday through Christmas pageants, the designs of Christmas cards and the narratives in ballads and carols describing the festivities of the old days.

In Scandinavian countries preparations and cooking are begun weeks in advance in order to stock the home for three weeks of hospitality and leisure during the holiday season. The celebration itself begins on Christmas Eve with an elaborate supper, followed by a tree with family worship and singing before the presents are distributed. "Early church is attended by everyone on Christmas morning, because the shepherds, the first to worship the baby Jesus, came early and then returned to their work.

Traditionally Germany kept Christmas with much heartiness, including a home festival and attendance at church.

"The observance centers around the Christmas tree with the presents not on it, but piled under it and on nearby tables, their distribution preceded by the singing of carols including 'O Tannenbaum' and 'Stille Nacht.'"

Children in the Netherlands leave their wooden shoes, filled with hay for St. Nicholas' white horse on which he jumps from roof to roof, leaving toys and sweets. In the Netherlands and Belgium December 6 is the children's holiday. December 25 is reserved for the religious holiday.

The religious features are prominent in France, especially the creche in churches and homes, and the midnight mass followed by Christmas supper, with family dinners and reunions on Christmas day. In Normandy where old customs are kept, the children go out on Epiphany Eve to meet the Three Kings on the highway.

The manger is also prepared in Mexican homes, ready for the

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## Advise Purchase Of Fertilizer As Soon As Possible

### Extension Service Men Talk To Farm Group Last Friday Night

Discussing the major changes certain to come in the 1948 farm program, Paul Leagans and Dr. E. R. Collins of State College Extension Service stressed several important facts for farmers in a meeting held in the courthouse last Friday evening.

Leagans said that some of the major changes in the farm program are very much needed, and suggested that every effort should be made to balance as well as diversify farming in Martin County. Using charts, Mr. Leagans pointed out the poor distribution of labor on farms. The labor requirements are at a low peak during the last months and the early months of the year, but in July and early August the demand for labor is terrific. It would be not only profitable but also advisable to try and balance the farm labor distribution so it would hold to about the same level the year around. His charts showed stockraising along with tobacco and peanuts. He also stated that the tobacco and peanut farm could include cotton and help level off the labor distribution.

Talking briefly on the fertilizer situation, Dr. Collins pointed out that the demand has been doubled in the past eight years, that the shortage was traceable to the increased use. The shift from tobacco to other crops according to the extension man, is almost certain to aggravate the fertilizer shortage in that the demand for nitrogen will be greater. "It will be at least two years before the supply can be increased," Dr. Collins said. He went on to explain that two new types of fertilizer, a 2-2-2 offered, but they are not expected to prove as profitable as the old types.

The specialist warned that in shifting from tobacco to other crops, the farmer will find it harder to get the proper fertilizer. He explained that the manufacturers have only so much storage space, that when that space is filled and fertilizer does not move on to the farms, the plants would have to stop making fertilizer. When the big demand is centered in the early spring, the manufacturers just cannot make it fast enough. Dr. Collins pointed out that better grades of fertilizer can be selected now, that early purchases will aid greater production in the plants.

Dr. Collins briefly reviewed a few facts about corn fertilization, and went on to say that many farmers were making more on corn than they were on peanuts. It was his opinion that it is about time to switch from tobacco and peanuts to other types of crops, "but the farmer must keep the shifts in mind and act accordingly," he said.

## L. A. Thompson Dies In Hospital

L. A. Thompson, a leading western dairyman and real estate promoter who operated in this and other counties of eastern North Carolina, died in a Milwaukee hospital on November 28, friends were advised here last week-end. Mr. Thompson was 77 years old and was ill only a few days.

He came to this county some years ago and purchased the old Dymond City tract of several thousand acres with the intention of developing a cattle ranch. The plan did not materialize and the property was sold to timber dealers.

Funeral services were held in Milwaukee and interment was in a cemetery there.

## Discuss Farm Plans At County Meeting

### SLOW SALE

The sale of state motor vehicle license tags is going forward slowly at the Carolina Motor Club's bureau in the offices of Harrison and Carstarphen here. Mr. Harrison said Monday morning that 930 automobile tags, 150 truck and 125 trailer tags had been sold up until that time. He pointed out that the sale is trailing the one of a year ago by a wide margin.

The bureau here ordinarily handles seven thousand tags.

## Christmas Card Custom Hardly A Century Old

### More Than One and One-Half Billion Cards Being Sent This Year

Colorful Christmas cards today seem as much a part of Christmas tradition as does Santa Claus. Yet the custom of sending cheery Yuletide cards is only a little over 100 years old—and it met stubborn popular resistance during its early days!

Early Christmas card designers back in the 1850's met widespread public ridicule. Like Fulton and his steamboat, they were warned that the custom of sending Christmas cards "could never win popular support."

Today post offices are buried under the landslide of Christmas cards every holiday season. More than 1,500,000,000 Christmas cards will be exchanged in the United States alone this year, according to an estimate by the National Association of Greeting Card Publishers.

The first known Christmas card was designed in 1842 in London, England, by William Maw Egléy, a sixteen-year-old engraving apprentice. He printed only one hundred copies, and sent them to his friends.

His quaintly cluttered card, printed in black ink on white paper, showed a formal banquet, a party dance, skaters, and a typically English pantomime performance. Underneath the illustrations he wrote, "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You"—still the most popular Yuletide greeting among all those ever composed.

The card won no fame for William Egléy, and nothing is known of what happened to him when he grew up.

Four years later, in 1846, Sir Henry Cole asked an artist friend, J. C. Horsley, to design a Christmas greeting card for him. The drawing featured a decorative trellis covered with a grapevine enclosing two small illustrations of acts of charity plus a larger panel picturing a merry family party, the celebrants all holding wineglasses filled to the brim. One thousand copies were lithographed and sent to Sir Henry's friends.

The cards raised a storm of public criticism from crusaders for the temperance cause, who claimed that Sir Henry's design "promoted wine bibbing." Taught discretion, Sir Henry never issued another card.

In 1862, a London publisher, Charles Goodall & Sons, courageously began issuing cards, and they won rapid acceptance. During the intervening twenty years, Prince Albert had presented Queen Victoria with the first Christmas tree in England.

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## \$1,700,000 Drop In County's Farm Income For 1948

### Leaders Advise Farmers To Work and Solve Their Own Problems

While they will call for major changes in the farm program, the proposed reductions in tobacco and peanuts may prove a blessing to this and other counties, farm leaders told a small group of farmers and business men in a meeting held in the county courthouse last Friday evening.

John W. Goodman, assistant director of the State Extension Service, frankly declared that the 1948 farm outlook for this section of the State was not optimistic, that approximately 235,000 acres were going out of production and that it would mean a loss of just about one hundred million dollars. "That's a sizable amount and it will mean much to each individual county," the extension man said, pointing out that, after all, it was a problem for the individual farmer to solve.

The farm leaders made few suggestions and admitted they were at a loss to offer a guaranteed solution to the problem. However, they urged the farmers to think in terms of resources, equipment and labor and iron out the problem in their own way.

The reduction in tobacco and peanuts will affect all, including farmers, bankers and other business men, Goodman said.

Discussing the 28 percent decrease proposed in tobacco acreage, Goodman said that the secretary of agriculture has the right to alter the percentage figure between now and next May. It had been hoped to have tobacco included in the list of relief commodities for foreign export, but it had not yet been accomplished and it is likely that tobacco will be left out, Goodman said.

The farm leader expressed the opinion that the 28 percent reduction or whatever figure is finally determined will be more or less permanent that the reduction will put production back in line with the 1944 schedule. Goodman advanced the belief that possibly this section was producing too much tobacco and not enough food and feed.

There is a possibility that quotas for peanuts will not be invoked for 1948, but, according to the farm leaders, possibly many farmers are now raising more peanuts than they would under normal conditions. "A big peanut crop in 1948 is almost certain to invite quotas for 1949," Goodman said.

Pointing out that 97 percent of Martin County's farm income is derived from three cash crops, that 55 percent of the land is utilized in producing those crops, the farm leaders said it is fairly apparent that the farm program is out of balance.

Martin County, it was explained, can expect a \$1,700,000 decrease in its tobacco revenue in 1948. The parity price may be increased a cent or two, and it will be a year for growing quality tobacco.

Discussing the switch to other crops to care for the loss in tobacco and possibly in peanuts, Goodman mentioned several substitute crops. "It's too late for strawberries for 1948. Too many farmers growing sweet potatoes will ruin the market, and the production of vegetables on all the idle acres would glut the market," Goodman said, pointing out, how-

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## Former Prisoner Hopes To Return To This Country

### Says the United States Gave Him a Square Deal While A Prisoner of War

Writing from the British Zone in Germany to Mr. George Moore here, Joseph Bucken, a former prisoner of war in the camp here, expressed the hope that he'd be able to return to this country. Employing quite a few of the slang expressions of speech, Bucken, a well educated German, declared that the United States treated him square.

His letter follows:

"Dear Captain George, 'I've just got to call you by that name since I never knew different. So, I trust you won't call me a silly fool.

"Capt., Sir, at first I want to say 'Hello' to you and the rest of the guys at the plant. I presume you all are getting along fine in the United States.

"Boy, do I wish I never had to leave. Do I wish I could sit again by the hot stove in the garage, beating the gums. What a big time we all had over there, although we never realized it.

"I can only state the U. S. did treat me square, and no wonder I'm trying to get back across the pond as soon as there's a chance. You think I ever would be worth anything in America? Or are you afraid I won't get by with my English or rather American? I'm studying as hard as I can. I'm taking courses in commercial English and shorthand now.

"At present I'm writing for recommendations from several people I used to work for in the United States. If you'd ever be willing to make such a statement on my behalf, I'd be very much obliged to you since it's going to be a valuable document for me whenever I apply for permission to enter the States which I so awfully much like to do.

"In case you don't remember me anymore, I'd like to inform you I used to be supervisor along with Henry in 1944-45 until I became director of studies (teaching English and American history) at the Williamston camp."

## Henry L. Griffin Funeral Tuesday

Funeral services will be conducted at the home of his sister, Mrs. Bruce Johnson, in Robersonville Tuesday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock for Henry Lawrence Griffin, 32, who died Sunday night at 9:30 o'clock following a short illness. Rev. W. B. Harrington, assisted by Elder A. B. Ayers, will conduct the last rites and interment will be in the Robersonville Cemetery.

The young man was a son of Mrs. Lora Griffin and the late Robert Griffin of this county.

Surviving besides his mother are three sisters, Mrs. Lee Hopkins o Everetts, Mrs. E. L. Williams of Norfolk, and Mrs. Bruce Johnson of Robersonville; and one brother, H. D. Griffin, Williamston

## Justice Johnson Has Three Cases

Justice R. T. Johnson handled three cases in his court last week, two of them going to the county court for further consideration.

Johnnie Wilder, drunk and disorderly, was sentenced to 60 days for family days, the court suspending the road term upon the payment of the costs and guaranteed good behavior for six months.

The case charging Walter Andrews and Tom Peel with assaults with deadly weapons, were sent to the county court.

## Solve Series Of Hog Thefts In the County

### GREETINGS

It's Christmas-time again, and Williamston merchants and others are extending holiday greetings in little messages appearing in this paper today. By all means read the little messages for they convey a warm, cheery meaning, without which the current season would be empty indeed.

Well over one and one-half billion similar messages in printed form are going out this Christmas season. Quite a sum it costs, but wouldn't it be a bit sad to live through Christmas without a single greeting or a most sincere wish for a happy yuletide season? It is the wish of all our advertisers today that all Enterprise readers, their friends and patrons have a jolly good Christmas and the best of New Years.

## Overseas Relief Drive Planned In State Next Month

### Seek To Collect Three and One-Half Million Pounds Of Clothing For Needy

"Fill a Ship with Friendship" is the goal of the second statewide overseas relief drive to be conducted in North Carolina by the state Council of Churches, it was announced last week by the Rev. Ernest J. Arnold, executive secretary of the Council. At a meeting held in Durham, field workers now organizing the county by county collection throughout the state, discussed plans and set the goal for the drive. It is estimated that about 3 1/2 million pounds of clothing, shoes, bedding and other items vitally needed among war victims overseas must be gathered to make a ship's cargo. That means that an average of one pound of goods will be collected from every person in the state, during the last week of January. The drive dates are January 25-31.

Plans were made for extensive showing of the relief film THIS ROAD WE WALK. A new sound motion picture recently released by Church World Service. Fifty copies of the film will be available for showing during the month of the drive as well as several prints of the U. S. Army film Seeds of Destiny, which was widely used last year.

During the last week of December and the first week of January, meetings of field workers, county chairmen and representatives from the Council of Churches and Church World Service will be

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## Two-Room House Damaged By Fire

Started when an oil stove exploded, fire wrecked one of the two small rooms in the home of Willie Thompson on Railroad Street Thursday afternoon at 4:45 o'clock. Fire burned through the ceiling and walls in one room and both rooms were filled with smoke. Most of the furniture in the small home was damaged by fire, smoke and water.

The oil stove, purchased from a mail order house, had just been placed in operation.

No official estimate on the damage could be had, but the loss will possibly exceed \$100.

## Officers Arrested Three Persons In Pitt Last Friday

### Whit Salsbury and His Parents Are Being Detained In County Jails

A series of daring and brutal hog thefts, baffling officers in this and adjoining counties for nearly six months, was believed to have been solved last Friday noon when Whit Salsbury, 34-year-old Negro, and his mother and father were arrested at their home on the Bowers farm near Bethel in Pitt County. Immediately following their arrests, all three of the accused denied any knowledge of the thefts, but officers started weaving strong evidence against them. It was explained that the thefts will involve persons living as far away as Virginia.

The Salsbury son broke down and admitted the Monroe Taylor hog theft, and told officers he sold them to the freezer locker plant in Tarboro. The meat was recovered Saturday by Mr. Taylor. Salsbury continues to deny the other thefts, but officers believe they can associate him with them. Starting the early part of last summer, the thieves led officers in a baffling chase. Highways were patrolled by members of the sheriff's department, including the sheriff, all night, night after night. Farmer Bill Abbott, cooperating with the sheriff's department, equipped a watch blind on his farm, the officers and others maintaining all-night watches there for possibly two weeks.

Using an automobile and holding to the hardsurfaced roads, the thieves left little evidence for the officers to work on. A 1938 Plymouth was spotted near the Abbott hog pasture two or three weeks ago but it left hurriedly and before the state license number could be read.

The first point of advantage was gained last Wednesday night when Farmer Sam Everett heard his hogs squealing about 7:00 o'clock. He thought little about the noise at the time, and made no investigation until the following morning, other than to turn on his barnyard light. Apparently the light frightened the thieves away but not until they had dragged one away. The thieves killed a second hog and bled him, but when the light went on they ran, leaving the dead hog. Thursday morning, Mr. Everett found the dead hog and thought possibly it was a victim of cholera or some other disease. To satisfy his own mind, the farmer delivered the dead hog to Dr. W. F. Coppage's offices in Williamston where an examination revealed that the animal had been knocked in the head with a ball sledge hammer and bled. It was too late to save the hog for meat. Returning home, the farmer found tracks of the thieves and saw where an object had been dragged from the hog pen to the highway. The farmer counted his hogs and found a nice white fattening hog gone.

Investigating the then latest theft, Sheriff Roebuck tracked the car to Farmer Reuben Everett's farm where a count was made and five nice hogs were found missing.

Learning that the thieves operated soon after dark, plans were made to establish a watch on the Abbott farm earlier Thursday evening. Just as word was being telephoned to Reuben Hester, overseer on the Abbott farm, Hester was calling in to advise that the same old 1938 Plymouth sedan

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