

# THE ENTERPRISE

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## Potato Committee Reports Findings To Local Meeting

### Members Visit Tabor City Market; Buyers Are Interested

Appointed by the Martin County Farm Bureau at a meeting held earlier in the month, a special committee discussed the prospects of establishing a sweet potato market in this county at a meeting of the farm organization held in the county courthouse last Friday evening. Representatives of buying organizations were said to be very much interested in an established market in this section and it was declared they would be glad to cooperate in promoting it.

Messrs. M. M. Levin, T. B. Brandon, H. U. Peel and J. R. Winslow were named on the committee, and two members, Brandon and Levin, visited the auction market at Tabor City last week.

Reporting to the small group of farmers in the courthouse last Friday, Messrs. Levin and Brandon stated that potatoes, harvested directly from the fields, were being sold for around \$2.50 a bushel, that seven firms had buyers on the market there.

The buyers have built storage or curing houses with a capacity of 90,000 bushels. Sold by the farmer on the auction market, the potatoes are then placed in the curing houses by the buyers for treatment and sale to the market outlets later.

It is too late to open a market here this season, but it is possible to do something about a market for handling potatoes next spring.

Two alternatives, both pointing to an established market, were discussed. One of the proposals would bring established buyers here to make direct purchases. The other plan calls for the formation of a cooperative marketing organization. It is possible under a cooperative plan to bring in a representative who would set up machinery for washing and polishing the potatoes at a fixed fee and then market the potatoes for the growers. Either plan would better the grower's position in that he would not have to depend on hucksters or truckers who travel at random with no assurance to the farmer that there'll be any market.

Pointing out again that this county holds an advantage in producing and marketing sweet potatoes, the meeting discussed briefly a few other factors besides marketing. Improved seed are necessary and production on a sufficiently large scale to insure a stable market are necessary.

The farmers at the meeting were convinced that a market is badly needed in this section, that one can be established, and the committee was asked to continue its work and report further developments.

## Firemen Call To Office Of Lumber Firm Friday

Volunteer firemen were called out here last Friday afternoon at 2:45 o'clock when fire, starting from a short circuit, threatened the office of the Wells-Oates Lumber Company on lower East Main Street.

The fire was out when the fire-fighting equipment was carried there, and very little damage resulted from the fire.

### FIRST

Its treasury depleted for some time, the Martin County Democratic Executive Committee started regaining its financial footing last week when Democrats over in Williams Precinct raised and submitted the \$25 and explained that more would be raised if needed.

Several other precincts have reported individual contributions amounting to around \$50, but Williams was the first precinct in the county to raise and report the assigned quota, County Chairman Albert S. Peel said.

Goose Nest reported its \$50 quota raised during a meeting of precinct Democrats there Monday night.

## Ole - Timers Get Together For Political Speech



Memories of the old days when corrupt politics and Republican degradation gripped the State were renewed in this county last Wednesday evening when fifteen of the ole-timers who voted in the 1898 election met in the county courthouse, held seats of honor and heard the Honorable Cameron Morrison, one of their fifty-year club group, deliver a stirring political address, calling for support of the Democratic ticket all the way down the line. Pictured above, first row, left to right, Mr. Morrison, H. M. Burras, Oscar Daniel, L. C. Roberson second row, J. T. Barnhill, Sylvester Peel, Eli Edmondson, J. L. Whitfield, H. L. Purvis, Neal James; third row, Ellis Malone, W. Amos Perry, L. P. Holliday, J. D. Ray, J. W. Andrews and George A. Crofton.

## Hold Last Tobacco Sales Of The Season Wednesday

The final curtain on tobacco sales on the local tobacco market will be lowered tomorrow (Wednesday), marking the close of one of the market's most successful seasons. It is fairly certain that just about the last lot of tobacco in this immediate section will have been marketed by that time. Not a single sale over 100,000 pounds has been held on the market in over two weeks and yesterday a new poundage low of only 27,826 pounds was reported on the market.

Most of the smaller markets are closing this week and it is fairly certain that many of the larger ones will suspend operations for the season early next month, with the possibility that few or no markets will be operating after Thanksgiving.

The delivery of "scrappings" and inferior grades has pulled the daily average down below fifty cents for the first time since September 28. While there has been a general price weakening these past few days, most of the better grades held to their fairly high price figures.

Through yesterday, the market here had sold 9,158,910 pounds for \$4,438,292.50 or an average of \$48.46.

Through last week, the east Carolina belt had sold this season 362,038,409 pounds for an average of \$49.73. The Flue-Cured Stabilization Corporation has handled right at 5 percent of the crop.

### ROUND-UP

Law enforcement officers had very little to do in this immediate area over the week-end, a report from the sheriff's office and local police station stating that only five persons were arrested and detained in the jail during the period.

Three of the five were charged with public drunkenness and one each with an assault and drunken driving. Two of the five were white, the ages of the group ranging from 18 to 38 years.

## Large Crowd At Oak City Rally

Democratic leaders, in the final week of the current campaign, carried their party's banner into Goose Nest Precinct Monday evening when Congressman Herbert Bonner spoke to one of the largest meetings of its kind held in this county in years. The congressman was heard by 175 Democrats and he pleaded for "down-the-line" support of the Democratic ticket next Tuesday.

The speaker was introduced by Mr. Nat Johnson, officer of the Young Democrats of Martin County.

Elbert Peel, chairman of the Martin County Democratic Executive Committee, spoke briefly. Several county officials, including J. Sam Getsinger and Paul Roberson, and Judge-Nominee Chas. Manning attended the meeting.

Congressman Bonner will bring the campaign to a close at Bear Grass Friday evening at 7:30 o'clock. The Democrats of the Jamesville section are meeting in the Jamesville school auditorium Thursday evening at 7:30 o'clock.

## Painfully Hurt In Fall At Her Home Thursday

Mrs. Leslie J. Griffin was painfully hurt in a fall near her home in Griffins Township Thursday. Receiving treatment here, she returned to her home where she'll spend some time in bed.

## Aged Man Badly Hurt In A Freak Accident Friday

### Hog Damages Car On Tabor-Oak City Highway Later That Evening

Highway accidents, working toward an all-time high for the month of October in this county, shifted from the careless or otherwise to the freakish type last week-end when one person, an aged colored man, was badly hurt and a hog wrecked a car less than two hours later.

Bob Brown, 77-year-old colored man, narrowly escaped with his life when a wheel ran off a trailer and bore down on him on Highway 125 between Williamston and Hamilton at the Everett farm. Striking the man between the legs, the run-away wheel ripped off most of his clothing, including a shoe which was knocked some distance away. The old man was bounced around quite a bit, too, one report stated. He was removed to Brown's Community Hospital and after receiving treatment was able to return to his home Monday. He is expected to recover if complications do not develop.

Morton Franklin Mills, of Hassell, was driving his 1940 Buick with a trailer attached in the direction of Hamilton when the right wheel on the trailer ran off. Brown, walking on his left side of the highway, was meeting the car and saw the run-away wheel meeting him. The old fellow jumped to the side of the road and was possibly ten feet or more from the hardsurface when the wheel struck him.

Investigating the accident, Patrolman B. W. Parker said it was one of those freakish types, that no charges were brought against the driver of the car who, it was reported, accepted the hospital bill and did what he could for the accident victim.

At 7:00 o'clock that evening, Wilbur Eugene Cannon was driving from Oak City on Highway 44 toward his home when a stray hog, weighing about 200 pounds, ran into the road. The hog was killed and the radiator and right front fender were damaged. Patrolman R. P. Narron, investigating the accident, stating that a trailer attached to the car, swerved and stopped in the ditch. The hog was valued at about \$50 and damage to the car was estimated at \$100.

## Gravely Hurt In Logging Accident

Robert Moon, about forty years old, was critically hurt in a logging accident near Jamesville last Friday afternoon, but last reports reaching here indicated he was improving in a Washington hospital.

Handling the grab hooks the worker was helping load a barge on Devil's Gut for the Mengel Company when a pile of logs started rolling and mashed his head into the mud. One report stated that his jaw bone, front bone and two or more ribs were broken and that he also suffered a skull fracture.

## Parents-Teachers Hear Health Talk

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### By Anne J. Corey

Miss Mary L. Taylor of the Martin County Health Department, speaking to the PTA meeting held last night at 8 o'clock in the grammar school auditorium, challenged parents and teachers to create better schools by means of improved health in a physical, mental and social manner.

Miss Taylor discussed fully the letter sent out by the local Health Department to the parents of children visiting the pre-school clinic. The speaker praised the present health program being taught in the class rooms by the teachers in the county. In closing, Miss Taylor gave a definite pattern by which parents can make Martin County schools better, including a teacher for handicapped children and vocational training.

During the business meeting preceding the program, President V. J. Spivey urged a good attendance at the district meeting to be held in Plymouth Thursday, October 28th. The president appointed the following committee to work with Mrs. Beecher Patterson to secure vestments for the high school glee club; Mrs. J. E. King, Mr. H. P. Mobley and Mrs. Herman Bowen.

Mr. Carlyle Cox, Social Studies teacher, read the PTA Proclamation.

The \$2.00 PTA membership prize was awarded to Mrs. Shag Abernethy's class in the grammar grades and to Mrs. Arthur White's room in the high school. Miss Betty Sue Tilly's class won the monthly attendance prize of \$1.00.

## Precincts Report Big Registration

Incomplete reports point to an unusually large pre-election registration in the county's thirteen precincts at the Everett farm. It is not so large within itself, it is about the largest reported for a pre-election registration in this county in quite a few years.

It is estimated that nearly 400 new names were added to the registration books during the past three Saturdays, one report indicating that two-thirds or more were placed on the books on the last day.

The political dopesters declare that the heavy registration points to a heavy vote in the county next Tuesday.

## Victim Of Bicycle Spill Recovers Rapidly Here

One side of his face badly skinned and bruised and rendered almost unconscious in a fall from a bicycle on East Main Street here last Friday night, Bill Brown, colored, recovered just ahead of an ambulance, making it to a doctor's office in a taxi. He was not badly hurt.

## Propose Changing Debt Limitations For County-Town

### Voters To Decide Fate Of Proposal In Election Next Tuesday

(By Albert Coats, Director, Institute of Government)

On Tuesday, November 2, the people of North Carolina will vote:

For amendment removing debt limitation upon the State, counties, and municipalities for necessary expenses, OR  
Against amendment removing debt limitation upon the State, counties, and municipalities for necessary expenses.

### The First Debt Limitations

For 200 years and more—from the Crown Charter in 1663 to the Constitution of 1868, there was no constitutional limitation on the power of the General Assembly in North Carolina to incur debt or to authorize counties and municipalities to incur debt. A program of internal improvements inaugurated during the 1830's, 40's and 50's invited state aid through subscriptions to railroad stock and endorsements of railroad obligations, supplemented by county and city aid authorized by the General Assembly. This program was wrecked by civil war and reconstruction and the Constitutional Convention of 1868 brought in the first debt limitations as part of its efforts to deal with the combined problems of debts, deficits and depression.

It repudiated all debts incurred in aid of the rebellion. It acknowledged "the public debt regularly contracted before and since the rebellion." It placed certain limitations on the power of the state and local units to incur debt in the future.

It stopped the legislative practice of incurring debt without levying a special tax to pay the annual interest, until the bonds of the state should be at par. It took away the legislative power "to give or lend the credit of the state in aid of any person, association or corporation" without a vote of the people, except for those railroads begun and not finished or those in which the state had a direct pecuniary interest. It left the legislature free to incur debt without limit or restriction: "to supply a casual deficit," or to suppress "invasion or insurrection" without a vote of the people.

### Evolution of State Debt Limit

The Constitution of 1868 placed no limit on the power of the General Assembly to incur state debt "to supply a casual deficit, or for suppressing invasion or insurrection." To these two items, for which the General Assembly could incur debt without limit, constitutional amendment in 1924 added a third—"the refunding of valid bonded debt," and a constitutional amendment in 1936 added a fourth: "to borrow in anticipation of the collection of taxes due and payable within the fiscal year to an amount not exceeding fifty per centum of such taxes;" and rephrased another: "to suppress riots or insurrections or to repel invasions."

With State bonds following the Civil War selling at fifty cents on the dollar it is easy to understand the opening sentence of the debt limitation provision of the Constitution of 1868—that except in case of the emergencies mentioned above, "the General Assembly shall have no power to contract any new debt or pecuniary obligation in behalf of the state... unless it shall in the same bill levy a special tax to pay the interest annually... until the bonds of the state shall be at par." After the bonds of the State began to sell at par this requirement became obsolete and gave way to a new constitutional limitation in 1924 limiting the state's power to incur indebtedness to "seven and one-half percent of the assessed valuation of taxable property within the state as last fixed for taxation."

By 1935 the state was fast approaching this limit: its net debt was around \$132,000,000, and 7 1-2 percent of its total assessed valuation was around \$161,000,000. And in 1936 the 7 1-2 percent

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## Two County Men To Open Creamery Here

### FARM AID

In a speech in Oklahoma, Governor Dewey claimed that the 80th Congress had passed a wonderful farm relief bill. A few days later Senator Barkley showed up.

"The governor didn't take the people of Oklahoma into his confidence," said Barkley. "I assume he knew what Congress did. If so, he must know that the 80th Congress crippled the farm-support program and passed a make-shift, hodge-podge bill."

"If the farmers examine that bill, they will discover that the price support feature will crash after election as low as 60 per cent of parity."

"Furthermore, the G. O. P. Congress deliberately refused the farmers the grain storage facilities provided heretofore by Democratic administrations. Many farmers were unable to hold their wheat back and were forced to sell below support levels."

## Construction Of \$40,000 Plant To Begin Next Week

### Messrs. Van G. and Van R. Taylor Promoting The New Industry

Construction work is tentatively scheduled to get under way next week on a \$40,000 creamery for Williamston, it was announced yesterday by Mr. Van Ralph Taylor who is promoting the new industry with Mr. Van G. Taylor. No date for completing the project was offered. Mr. Van Ralph Taylor, who is to manage the plant, explaining that building material delivery is still uncertain.

Measuring 50 by 80 feet and of concrete block construction, the new building is to be located on the lot between the W. B. Watts home and Chesson's Garage on South Haughton Street. Purchasing the property only recently, the Messrs. Taylors plan to remove the garage building the early part of the year and improve the property to give the new plant an ideal and attractive setting, the young Mr. Taylor explained.

While the plant is being built in connection with the operation of Taylor's dairy near here, the management plans to invite deliveries from raw milk producers throughout this section. The plans also call for the eventual operation of a wholesale ice cream manufacturing plant. For the present, however, the plant will limit its operations to the pasteurization of milk and the manufacture of ice cream for retail, it was reported.

Recognizing the need for a supplemental farm income, Mr. Van Taylor has considered the project for several years. With the return of his nephew from the service, Mr. Taylor discussed the project anew and formed an effective partnership for advancing it.

The new industry will be the only one of its kind in this immediate territory and has the promise of fitting perfectly into this section's economic picture.

## Children's Fund Goes Over \$1,000

A fifty dollar contribution from the Macedonia Bible School plus \$14 from other sources sent the fund for little hungry children in War-stricken countries over the \$1,000 mark last week-end. Mrs. N. C. Green, treasurer, reported this week. The fund, while still far short of its \$2,500 goal, now stands at \$1,015.57.

Contributions not previously acknowledged follow:

Mrs. Dean Speight, \$2; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Griffin, \$5; Lindelle Ward, \$2; W. O. Peele, \$5; and Macedonia Bible school, \$50.00.

It isn't too late to contribute to the fund, but those who would like to have a part in helping needy humanity are asked to forward their donations to Mrs. Green in Williamston as soon as possible.

### PROGRESSING

The annual Farm Bureau membership drive is progressing rapidly in this county, according to reports submitted by canvassers in a meeting held in the county courthouse here last Friday evening.

A total of 1,217 members had been signed and reported up until that time, President Charles L. Daniel expressing the opinion that other canvassers not at the meeting had signed at least 300 members, leaving the drive just about 600 short of its goal. Efforts being made to carry the drive over the top within the next two weeks.

## Grape Market Is Expanding Here

Handling just a few tons several years ago, the Lindsley Ice Company, agents for Garrett and Company, have materially expanded the local market for scuppernon and black grapes in the past season or two.

Reporting the market activities for the season just ended, K. P. Lindsley stated that 297,125 pounds of white or scuppernon and 105,970 pounds of black grapes were handled here, that the 201 1-2 tons of grapes added \$34,263.08 to the income of farmers in this section of the State.

Most of the grapes were grown between Edenton and the Virginia Line, but the Pea Ridge section of Washington County produced a goodly quantity.

Grapes are proving a money-maker for quite a few local farmers. Mr. Lindsley declared. New methods of arboring, patterned after a hub and spokes, are eliminating much of the care once required by vineyards.

There is said to be an unlimited market for grapes, and farmers interested in starting or adding to an arbor are directed to contact the Experimental Station at Wallace, N. C., or the Lindsley Ice Company in Williamston for information.

## Dies Suddenly In Old Shanty Here

Dorothy Richardson, 30-year-old colored woman, died suddenly in a shanty on the Williamston Lumber Company property on the Washington Road here last Thursday night at 9:45 o'clock. Dr. Edward Early and Coroner S. R. Biggs along with local police investigated the death and found that the woman died of natural causes, either a heart attack or a cerebral hemorrhage.

A native of Charlotte, she came here from New York about six months ago, and was visiting in Jethro McQuaine's shanty home when she was stricken and died a few seconds later.

The body was removed to the Everett Funeral Home, where it was being held pending receipt of instructions from the mother in Charlotte.

## Friends Meet For The First Time In 56 Years

G. T. Hill, highly respected colored teacher-preacher, had the unique experience last week of meeting for the first time in 56 years an old class mate he was in school with during the existence of the Plymouth Institute. Sarah Eura Reid of Gatesville attended the Baptist District Convention here last week and although they had not seen each other in 56 years they recognized each other instantly.