

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

THE ENTERPRISE

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

VOLUME LIII—NUMBER 43

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, May 30, 1950

ESTABLISHED 1899

Charge Doctor With Secretary's Murder

Edward L. Early Claims Killing Was Result Of Accident

Odessa Keyes, Young Colored Woman, Died In Hospital Monday

Edward L. Early, local Negro physician, was jailed by Officers Perry and Jones here about 9:00 o'clock Sunday night for the murder of his secretary, Odessa Keyes, young colored woman, at his office-home on Washington Street about 8:00 o'clock that evening.

Performing an autopsy, Acting Coroner Billy Biggs said that the bullet went through the skin at the outer edge of the right eyebrow, going about half an inch before breaking the skull and shattering the bone and damaging the brain over a course of about two inches.

Climaxing a career marked by marital discord, the fatal attack, according to a statement made to a reporter immediately after the shooting, followed a friendly tussle. Declaring that he was not mad with the woman, the doctor said they were playing with the pistol and that somehow it fired and she fell over backwards.

Following the attack, the doctor called another doctor, notified his attorney and the police, surrendering calmly to the two arresting officers. He helped place the victim on an ambulance cot and asked that she be removed to a hospital.

Police recalled that they had received an anonymous call from a woman that afternoon, advising them to look around the doctor's office. Officers, thinking possibly Early was drunk and planned to drive his car, maintained a watch near the office for a short time, and returned after everything appeared all right.

Advised that no bond could be allowed until a report was received from the hospital, Early calmly smoked his pipe and made no protest when officers jailed him. At a preliminary hearing held before Justice R. T. Johnson in the courthouse last evening, the murder in the first degree. The defense maintained that the evidence did not support the charge and asked that bond be fixed at a

(Continued from page five)

Native Of County Dies In Charlotte

James A. Jenkins, 36, died at his home in Charlotte last Wednesday. He had been in feeble health for a long time. He was born in this county near Robersonville, the son of the late W. A. and Martha Ross Jenkins and spent his early life, living in Robersonville, Pitt County and Williamston before moving to Charlotte about six years ago.

Funeral services were conducted in Charlotte Thursday afternoon and interment was in the cemetery there.

Surviving are a brother, Woodrow Jenkins of Greenville, and three half-brothers, W. O. Jenkins of Hamilton, C. E. Jenkins of Williamston, and Fred A. Jenkins of Charlotte.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Jenkins, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Burt Jenkins and Mr. W. O. Jenkins of Hamilton attended the funeral.

ELECTION PARTY

The Enterprise election party last Saturday night, opening at 7:20 p. m. and closing at 2:15 a. m. Sunday morning, was possibly the biggest one ever held. And to be perfectly frank, it was a little more than the crowd could handle smoothly.

A special telephone was installed, but interest in the election was so great that the calls for information on the results, blocked the poll holders who tried to get in with the returns. The office was open at all times, and the crowds milling in and out slowed up the machinery, but all worked hard to get the returns posted. The poll holders did a good job in getting the returns in, and the Enterprise management appreciated their cooperation.

In addition to posting the returns, The Enterprise handled the county results for the several press associations, state newspapers and others and cooperated with an election party in Robersonville.

Record Vote Cast In Martin County Primary Saturday

Total of 5,013 Votes Put Into Boxes; Beat 1948 Count By 217 Votes

Supported by red hot contests, the primary election in this county last Saturday pulled the greatest vote ever recorded within the county. It is possible that one or two precincts did not keep company with the record-breaking business, but the county as a whole polled 5,013 votes to top the previous high figure by a count of 217 votes.

The count last Saturday was 1,864 votes greater than the total cast in 1948's first primary.

After casting between 2,000 and 3,000 votes for years and years, Martin County citizens started stepping out to the polls back in 1932 when depression gripped the country and the name of Roosevelt was placed before them. That year, 3,881 votes were cast in the general election. Eight years later, the vote had climbed to 4,734 to break all records for a general election. There was a slight drop in 1944, possibly because so many young men were across the seas engaged in a great war. But even then the 4,541 general election vote was listed in the big-time vote class. Two years ago, the vote total climbed up to 4,796 to set an all-time record for a general election.

Without fear from the Republicans in their primaries, Democrats simply have not been turning out in big numbers to settle their own party squabbles, or at least not until last Saturday.

For the sake of the record, the voting strength or registration, the 1948 first primary vote and the vote last Saturday are recorded, by precincts, as follows:

Table with 4 columns: Reg. Precinct, 1948, 1950, Total. Lists precincts like Jamesville, Williams, Griffins, etc.

Small Utilities Tax Received By The Town

Williamston's town treasury received this week \$329.46 as its share of the utilities tax imposed by the State of North Carolina, Mayor Robt. Cowen announced.

Second Primary In Senate Race Is Still Unsettled

Graham Gets Great Victory In Martin; Leads With 50,262 Votes in State

Trailing Frank Graham in the primary last Saturday by 50,262 votes on the basis of incomplete returns, Willis Smith, chief contender early today had not made up his mind as to whether he would call for another vote on June 24, but reports indicate he would like to carry the contest into a second round provided financial support is continued.

Sixty-six precincts this morning were still to be heard from, but the outcome is not likely to be materially changed when the votes in those areas are finally submitted. The 1,924 precincts out of a total in the State of 1990 gave Graham 295,342 votes; Smith, 245,080; Reynolds, 56,018; and Boyd, 5,865.

Leading his nearest opponent in the primary last Saturday by 50,262 votes, Graham was 5,711 votes short of a majority.

While Smith holds a precarious position in the election picture, Democracy says he is entitled to a second primary, and one is not to be censured for exercising such a right.

It is estimated that more than 605,000 votes will have been counted in the hot senatorial race by the time the State Board of Elections finishes its canvass next Tuesday, that the vote in a second primary, should one be called by Mr. Smith, would fall off considerably.

The vote received by Graham last Saturday was said to be the largest ever accorded a U. S. Senatorial candidate in a primary in North Carolina.

In Martin County, the voters gave Frank Graham about the largest percentage majority received in the State, excepting Graham's home county of Orange which he carried by about five to one, and one or two others. Graham led in this county 3,218 as against 1,267 for Smith, 196 for Reynolds and 100 for Boyd. Carrying every box in the county, Graham led the State ticket with almost one thousand votes to spare.

Exceeding the fondest expectations (Continued on page six)

Williamston's Representative



Young Man Loses Life In Accident In County Town

Richard Raynor Drowns In Hamilton While Working On Water Drain

Richard Raynor, well-known Hamilton young man, was accidentally drowned in a few inches of water at his home there Sunday afternoon. According to reports reaching here, he was working on a kitchen drain and apparently fainted and fell face down into a small puddle of water. The young man was subject to fainting attacks and had received hospital treatment during recent months. The death was investigated, but was ruled accidental and no formal inquest was considered necessary, according to information reaching here.

He was carried to the hospital in a car, but no help could be rendered.

An adopted son of Mrs. Fannie Raynor and her late husband, Alonza L. Raynor, he came to (Continued on page six)

Miss Norma Fagan Goes To Raleigh Tomorrow For Picture Premiere

Miss Norma Fagan, recently selected to represent Williamston in the "Bright Leaf Queen" competition, will leave tomorrow morning for Raleigh and the world premiere of "Bright Leaf," the movie version of the best-seller by the same name by Foster Fitz-Simmons of Chapel Hill. She will be accompanied by Dr. and Mrs. Victor Brown and sons.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Julian Fagan of Dardens she will compete with contest winners from twenty-three North Carolina cities for the title.

The day will start off with a "celebrities" luncheon at 12:00 at the Virginia Dare room of the Sir Walter Hotel. Bright leaf contest winners, movie stars and radio personalities and civic and state leaders will be present.

The giant parade will get under way at 2:45 p. m. and will be followed by the selection and coronation of the "Bright Leaf Queen" at 3:30 p. m. on the State Capitol grounds. Each contestant will receive gifts from Warner Bros. including luggage, handbag and Delta pearls, and a North Carolina firm will award each contestant a record player and an album of records. The finalist will receive a 1950 Mercury convertible and a three week vacation at Nags Head.

At 5 p. m. Governor and Mrs. Kerr Scott will give a tea and reception for the contestants. Movie and radio stars will be guests as will Author Fitz-Simmons. The premiere will be staged at the Ambassador Theatre that night with two performances. Movie stars Patricia Neal, Donald Crisp, James Brown will be on hand at the premiere.

No picture in recent years has aroused more interest than "Bright Leaf" while in production at Warner Bros.' studios. Combining the talents of Gary Cooper, Lauren Bacall, Patricia Neal and Jack Carson and with famed director Michael Curtiz in charge, "Bright Leaf" was the center of attention in the whole film colony from the day it started preparation.

For picture purposes "Bright Leaf" will be (Continued on page six)

Anderson Reserving Decision On Second Primary In County

Candidate Johnson Makes Brief Election Statement

Checking the election returns last Saturday evening, Henry A. Johnson, candidate for sheriff, admirably conceded victory to his opponent in the race when he spoke to the large crowd gathered around the Enterprise office for the election results.

In a ringing, clear voice, Mr. Johnson said, "This was my first campaign, and I have enjoyed it. I want to thank all those who worked so faithfully in my behalf and voted for me in the primary. Buck Holloman was not my candidate, but he is my sheriff," Mr. Johnson was quoted as saying.

Later, a friend was quoted as saying, "Henry, you gave a barbecue for all those who voted against you. Now, you'll have to give a barbecue for those who

voted for you." The answer, "Doggone if I shouldn't," or words to that effect. And in it all Mr. Johnson wore the same old smile that prevailed during the long months of relentless campaigning.

Few political campaigns have ever been conducted in this county more earnestly and vigorously than the one advanced by Johnson forces. While some issues may have been injected into the campaign, they did not come from the candidates themselves.

Candidate Luther Hardison, trailing the ticket for the State House of Representatives, declared that he had set an example for a clean campaign. Incidentally, it was an economical one that Mr. Hardison conducted for himself.

All Contests But One In County Settled Saturday

R. T. Johnson Wins Over Chas. H. Manning For County Judgeship

With one exception, Martin County voters virtually settled their politics for another two years when they went to the polls in record breaking numbers last Saturday and nominated W. M. (Buck) Holloman for sheriff, R. T. Johnson for judge of the county recorder's court, Hugh G. Horton for the State Senate, and Howard Gaylord for the county board of education, and re-nominated W. M. Harrison for county commissioner from the Griffins-Bear Grass District, and Geo. C. Griffin and Ernest Edmondson for places on the board of education. Sam M. Campen was renominated for the State Senate, but A. Corey, incumbent, did not come through with a majority in the race for representative in the North Carolina General Assembly.

The race for representative developed into a fairly close race for three of the contestants, the fourth, Mr. Luther G. Hardison, continuing on his way nonchalantly and at an easy-going pace.

Polling 1,760 votes, Mr. Corey fell short of a majority by 2,321 votes, leaving the race open for a second round on June 24. Mr. E. G. Anderson, runner-up with 1,552 votes, said last evening that he was considering the matter but had reached no decision. In an informal statement, Anderson said he wanted to express his appreciation to all those who supported his candidacy, that he was undecided about a second primary, and that he would make an announcement within a few days. Jimmy Wallace, third in the race with 1,186 votes, and Luther Hardison, with 145 votes, threw the contest wide open for the two top candidates to settle the majority in a second primary.

Starting from scratch, R. T. Johnson polled 2,479 votes to get a 302 vote lead and win over Chas. H. Manning for county judge, the victory coming somewhat as a surprise. The campaign attracted comparatively little attention.

The sheriff's contest was packed with pulling power and admittedly accounted for the record vote total throughout the county. Holloman, incumbent, polled 3,165 votes to 1,785 for Johnson.

W. M. Harrison held his seat on the board of county commissioners with 2,507 votes, his opponent, J. Shep Holliday, polling 1,612 votes.

One of those nip-and-tuck affairs in which Howard Gaylord, Jamesville man, moved in with a high vote of 2,797 votes to ease out the incumbent, F. W. Holliday, who (Continued on page eight)

ROUND-UP

Despite heavy traffic in the various county centers during the week-end, crime took a back seat in most places, according to information coming from the sheriff's office. The election front was comparatively free of any trouble of any kind, but there was a serious flare-up in Williamston when a Negro doctor, Edward Early, shot and fatally injured his secretary, Odessa Keyes.

Five persons were jailed, two for investigation and one each for murder, assault and drunken driving. Four were colored and ages of the group ranged from 23 to 32 years.

Constable Races In Martin County

While they attracted little county-wide attention, some hot constable races were held in three townships last Saturday. Two were definitely settled, and no statement has been issued in the third.

Dallas Holliday led the ticket in Jamesville with 213 votes, but fell eight votes short of a majority over Jennis Price with 149 votes and Ray O'Neal with 71 votes. It could not be learned if Mr. Price would ask for a second primary. But, under the law, he is entitled to it.

In Williamston, Chas. R. Moore led A. C. Bailey 983 to 522. The vote was: Moore 432 in No. 1 precinct and 551 in No. 2 precinct; Bailey, 257 in No. 1 and 255 in No. 2 precinct. But the jokesters moved in with an unannounced and most certainly an unwilling candidate. Frank Carstarphen polled 10 votes for the job, 6 in No. 1 and 4 in No. 2 precinct. Mr. Carstarphen explained that he was a third stranger in his home precinct.

H. E. Leggett led H. M. Peel 231 to 88 in Hamilton for the job of constable in that township. The vote was: Leggett, 91 in Hassell and 140 in Hamilton; Peel, 10 in Hassell and 78 in Hamilton.

Population Figures

A preliminary report released this week by F. Webb Williams, census supervisor for this district, shows an upward trend in this county's population. The report offers figures only for the towns of Robersonville and Williamston and for the county. Other reports are expected momentarily.

Williamston's population fell 22 short of the 5,000 mark. The count jumped from 3,996 in 1940 to 4,498, an increase of 882. Robersonville's population moved up from 1,407 to 1,409.

The county population jumped from 26,111 to 27,972, a gain of 1,861 in the ten-year period. Almost half the county gain is reflected in the increase for Williamston. Just now, it is impossible to trace the other half of the county population increase, but it is thought that the several towns will come through with increases,

Official Vote — Democratic Primary In Martin County, May 27, 1950

Large table with columns for Precincts, U.S. Senate, Asso. Jus Sup. Cr., Com. of Ins., State Senate, Use of Represent'vs, Sheriff, County Commr, Board Education. Lists candidates like Graham, Smith, Reynolds, etc.

Horton-Campen In Lead For Senate

Hugh G. Horton, Williamston man, and Sam M. Campen of Alliance, Pamlico County, led in the race for this district's two seats in the North Carolina State Senate, according to unofficial returns from the primary election last Saturday.

The vote was, Horton, 8,996; Campen, 7,194; O. L. Williams, Hyde County man, 5,903; Dallas Mallison, of Oriental, Pamlico County, 2,300.

Table with 4 columns: County, Cmpn Wms, Mal, Hor. Lists counties like Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, etc.