

# THE ENTERPRISE

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FAMILIES TWICE EACH WEEK

ESTABLISHED 1899

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Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, November 21, 1950

## Court Clears Few Cases First Day Two-Week Term

### Working On \$25,000 Damage Suit Today; Recess Certain Tomorrow

Opening the two-week special term of superior court Monday morning, Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn reviewed the calendar and handled nine divorce cases in less than an hour. After holding hearings on one or two special cases, the court in the afternoon called for a jury in the \$25,000 damage suit brought by Arthur Lilley, administrator of Dallas Hugh Lilley, against L. W. Gurkin, as a result of a fatal accident at the defendant's Albemarle Beach. Evidence is being heard in the case this morning, and its completion is expected sometime late today or tomorrow, the judge announcing that he wanted to recess court at noon Wednesday until next Monday.

Divorces, based on two years of separation, were granted in eight cases, as follows:

Mozella Salsbury against LeRoy Salsbury, Herbert G. Jones against Louisiana Cotten Jones, Flora Brown Keel against Isaac Keel, Bettie L. Coltrain against Carroll C. Coltrain, Geo. H. Lyons against Martha Lyons, James Ramsey, Jr., against Nancy N. Ramsey, Madeline Busby against Charles Busby, Mack Williams against Katie Lee Williams.

Herbert Jones almost missed out in his case when it was brought out that he voted in New York but claimed to maintain residence in this county. When the defendant's brother appeared as a witness for the plaintiff, the court followed through. Asked by his attorney how he voted, Jones said that that was the \$64 question.

A ninth divorce was granted when the plaintiff, John Robert May, offered evidence tending to show that his wife, Elvora, had committed adultery, that she was living with a man by the name of Bud Perkins, and that she had borne a child fathered by Perkins.

The divorces were run through the mill without a delay. Two juries were used and by the time one decided the issues in a case, another jury was ready to move into the little room. Other than hearing the divorce cases, the jury remained idle until the \$25,000 Lilley damage suit was called.

Several cases were removed from the calendar by consent judgments, at least two before the clerk.

In the case of Michael E. Ward by his next friend, T. H. Ward, against Emily Roberson, the plaintiff received \$1,400. Of the amount, \$330 goes to the hospital.

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## Dealer Here Gets A Special Award

Announcement of "Better Dealer Award" to the Pontiac division of Charles H. Jenkins and Company of Williamston and branch dealerships was made last week by the zone office.

The award is made for the high service of all branches of the local company. Only 14 similar awards have been presented in the past by the Charlotte zone, which covers North and South Carolina and under which the Williamston firm operates.

E. M. Krotine, Pontiac zone manager in Charlotte will make the presentation during a visit in the near future. The award is a replica of the famous painting of Chief Pontiac.

### SANTA CLAUS

It was officially announced this week that Santa Claus is packing his sack, preparatory to making a preliminary visit to Williamston on the afternoon of November 29. All the little folks, and old ones, too, are invited to meet the merry old gentleman at that time. Time of arrival and other details will be announced later this week.

## County Cotton Production Almost at Vanishing Point

Cotton, for many years the No. 1 cash crop in Martin County, is rapidly going out of the picture. Official reports, as of November 1, show that only 273 bales of the staple had been ginned from the 1950 crop up until that time as compared with 1,834 bales ginned in the corresponding 1949 period.

Cotton, down through the years, was rated as a million dollar cash crop in the county. Production, rapidly nearing the vanishing point, will carry a value this year of hardly more than \$75,000.00. The production report, while official, does not take into consideration that cotton produced in the county but ginned in Halifax or other counties.

### TOY COLLECTION

Preparing for their annual Christmas party for underprivileged or less-fortunate children in this community, the Williamston Jaycees Sunday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock will make a canvass of the town for discarded but serviceable toys, it was announced today.

Last year the party was a big success, and the Jaycees are again asking the cooperation of everyone in making the one this year a success.

Local citizens are asked to bundle their toys and place them on their porches. Special pick-ups will be handled for those who call T. F. Harrison at Woolard Hardware Company's store.

## Drive Nears Goal In Martin County

The annual Farm Bureau membership drive is nearing its 2,000 goal in this county, according to a report released last Friday night by Secretary Mayo Hardison. At that time the drive was just 164 members short of its quota, it was announced.

At a "dutch" supper held last Friday evening, Farm Agent Tom Brandon pointed out the need for maintaining an all-out research program. He said, had it not been for research in tobacco and the development of disease resistant seed, Martin County farmers would be forced out of tobacco production. It has been pointed out, also, that farmers should consider the use of disease resistant seed in preparing for another tobacco crop.

Assistant Agent D. W. Brady talked briefly about meat types, explaining that the meaty type of hogs are now commanding a premium price on the markets in this State. The meaty type is a long fat hog, the agent stating that they are more in demand than the short fat hog.

The Farm Bureau membership group is to hold a last meeting in the courthouse on Friday evening of this week at 7:00 o'clock, when a final report is to be submitted. During the meantime, those membership canvassers working in the Ed O'Neal Club are asked to turn in their memberships before noon Wednesday of this week so the names can be submitted for consideration for free trips to Houston, Texas.

## Active TB Cases In Martin County

There are twenty four known active cases of Tuberculosis in Martin County, all of which are receiving sanatorium care. Many unknown cases may be found if we continue free chest X-ray service which is made possible through the purchase of Christmas seals. Since November 1, 1949 863 free chest X-rays have been given the people of Martin County. Films for these X-rays are furnished regularly by the tuberculosis committee which is supported entirely by the Christmas Seal Sale. Last year five Martin County persons lost their lives from Tuberculosis. If we are to stamp out this dread disease every effort must be made to make unknown cases known.

HERALD

The county was allotted about 4,200 acres this year. Approximately one-half the allotment was planted. With possibly a few exceptions, the crop was just about one big failure. Production averaged hardly seventy pounds of lint per acre, some farmers explaining that they picked as little as 50 pounds per acre. A few others said they picked an average of 100 pounds per acre. Other farmers abandoned their crops at picking time after season-long cultivation.

One thing is now certain and that is if farmers are going to plant and produce cotton they will have to poison it more effectively.

## General Holiday For Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Day will be observed here as a general holiday, according to reports coming from business and heavy industry.

All stores, offices, mills and factories are suspending operations for the day. There'll be no mail deliveries either in the country or the town that day, but mail will be dispatched and the post office boxes served.

Owners of the Williamston Peanut Company announced that their plant would not be in operation that day, but that peanuts would be received. A report from the Dixie Peanut Company owners said their plant would be closed.

The Enterprise office is closing for the day, and there'll be no paper Thursday, the second issue of the week to make its appearance on Friday or a day late.

Hunters in large numbers are planning to turn to the fields in search of quail Thanksgiving day, the first day of the open season.

A union Thanksgiving service will be held in the Christian Church here at 10:00 o'clock that morning. A similar service is to be held in the Smithwicks Creek Church at 11:00 o'clock Thursday morning.

## Pleads Guilty Of False Pretense

Pleading guilty of misrepresenting his earnings to the Employment Security Commission, Jerry Purrington, 309 Sycamore Street, Williamston, was sentenced to jail for thirty days by Justice Chas. R. Mobley last week-end.

The evidence according to Representative Wood Privott, showed that Purrington filed a claim for unemployment compensation while working with the Lindsley Ice Company during the week ending October 21. He told the interviewer of the State Security Commission when he filed claim for unemployment compensation for that week that he had earnings of \$3 whereas he had worked and earned \$27.50 with the Lindsley Company.

The jail sentence was suspended upon the payment of the cost and refunding the Employment Security Commission \$14.50, the amount he was overpaid as a result of his misrepresentation of the true facts.

## To Sell Salsbury Estate Property

The Salsbury properties in the Hamilton-Hassell area will be offered for sale at public auction on Monday, December 4, it has been announced by P. L. Salsbury, administrator of R. W. Salsbury's estate, and agent for the heirs of R. W. and Laura E. Salsbury.

The property, part of which has been in the Salsbury family for generations, includes the R. W. Salsbury residence and other holdings in Hamilton, the Johnson farm near Hamilton, James farm near Hassell, store buildings, warehouses and vacant lots in Hassell, the old Salsbury homeplace which has been subdivided into three sizable farms, and some personal property.

The several farms have liberal crop allotments.

## Three Accidents On The Highways In Martin County

### One Accident Victim Placed In Hospital For Treatment

Slowing down considerably from the wreck 'em up and tear 'em down pace set the week before, motorists were involved in only three highway and street accidents in this county last week-end. Only one person was injured, and although she was hospitalized, her injuries were not believed to be serious.

The first in the three-wreck series was reported last Thursday morning on a rural road in Goose Nest Township near the Jack Smith home. A Jones boy was driving a big tractor out of Robt. Jones' yard into the nine-foot road just as Hurtford Smith drove up in a 1950 Ford. Investigating the accident, Patrolman R. P. Narron said the tractor driver was hurt, that the damage to the Ford would approximate \$200. Little damage was done to the tractor.

Friday afternoon, Officer George Ross was driving his 1947 Pontiac toward Greenville when Jim Scott of Pactolus drove his 1948 Kaiser from a filling station into the highway. No one was hurt, and damage to the Pontiac was estimated at \$100 by Patrolman B. W. Parker who made the investigation. Damage to the Kaiser was estimated at \$35.

Saturday evening about 9:00 o'clock, Louise Biggs, 87-year-old colored woman, started to walk across West Main Street in front of Rogers' store. Maurice A. Apple of Burlington saw the aged woman, applied his brakes and his 1950 Frazer skidded sideways and struck the pedestrian. He picked her up and carried her to the hospital where she remained overnight for observation and treatment. Witnesses said that the woman was looking at the approaching car as she stepped into the street.

## Wm. E. Gurganus Dies In Hospital

Funeral services were conducted at the home in Bear Grass Township last Friday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock for William Edward Gurganus who died in Duke Hospital, Durham, Wednesday night. He was in ill health for about a month, and his condition had been critical following an operation some over two weeks ago. Burial was in the Reed family cemetery in Bear Grass Township.

Mr. Gurganus was born in Bear Grass fifty years ago and lived and farmed there all his life.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Allie Rawls Gurganus; two sons, William Gray and Dallas Harrell Gurganus, both of the home; two daughters, Mrs. Henry Hoell of Williamston and Doris Virginia Gurganus of the home; three brothers, R. C. Gurganus of Bear Grass, Henry Gurganus of Williamston, and C. B. Gurganus of Crossroads; a sister, Leaman Beach of Crossroads; three half-brothers, John, Joe and Ashley Gurganus, all of Bear Grass; a half-sister, Eunice Gurganus of Bear Grass; his step-mother, Mrs. Betty Gurganus of Bear Grass, and four grandchildren.

## Holiday Proclamation

We are reaping another annual harvest, estimated to be among the greatest in the history of America. While many people in other lands live almost an animal existence on a starvation diet we have sufficient for ourselves and can provide help to many millions of others:

For these opportunities we should be truly thankful, for our heritage of good is greater than ever.

Let us be thankful not just what we have but for the privilege of having enough so that we can extend our aid and comfort to others whom the world has not treated so well. Let us be thankful for the good of the past and for the opportunities of the future.

Now, therefore, I, R. H. Cowen, Mayor of Williamston, in accord with the proclamations of the President of the United States and the Governor of North Carolina, and following a custom inaugurated by the Pilgrim Fathers in 1621, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 23rd, 1950, as Thanksgiving Day in Williamston and call upon all business activities to cease on that day and may all our people repair to their various places of worship and render thanks to the Almighty for the wonderful blessings we have received.

## Twenty-eight Men Drawn For Court Jury In December

### Judge Walter J. Bone Of Nashville To Preside During Short Term

Twenty-eight men, including several colored ones, were drawn recently by the board of county commissioners for jury duty during the one-week term of the Martin Superior Court, convening the second Monday in December. For the first time since women were qualified for jury duty none was drawn for regular term of the superior court. More than 85 percent of those drawn in the past were excused by the court.

Judge Walter Bone of Nashville is scheduled to preside over the term which is to run no longer than one week during which time cases of both a criminal and civil nature are slated for trial. However, few criminal cases and no civil cases have as yet been placed on the trial calendar.

Names of the citizens called for jury duty are:

Jamesville Township: Clarence Barber, Warren Brooks, Albert D. Williams, Garland Barber, Bennie Strons and Wendell Modlin.

Williams Township: Joe A. Hardison.

Griffins Township: H. Virgil Lilley, D. Clarence Gurkin, and Miles R. Lilley.

Bear Grass Township: Ralph Mobley and Raymond Lee.

Williamston Township: O. L. Woolard, William H. Everett, Jos. A. Peel and Theron R. Gurganus.

Cross Roads Township: Oscar Ayers.

Robertsonville Township: Clarence Mathews, Leo J. Everett, Elmo Bullock, E. B. VanNortwick, LeRoy Brown, Robert L. Cochran and John E. Boone.

Popular Point Township: Tom Taylor.

Hamilton Township: J. H. Harrell.

Goose Nest Township: Geo. M. Stevenson and R. L. Etheridge.

## Achievement Day Exercises Friday

Achievement Day was observed by the colored schools here last Friday.

A big parade, centered around the local and Washington school bands, moved through the main street and a football game that afternoon climaxed the day's program.

### ROUND-UP

Nine arrests were reported by local, county and State officers here last week-end. However, only eight persons were jailed. One of the nine, booked for riding a bicycle while he was intoxicated, was released the next day and booked on a drunkenness charge before the day was spent.

Six of the nine were booked for public drunkenness, and one each for issuing a worthless check, an assault and reckless driving. The ages of the group ranged from 18 to 56 years, and three of the nine were white.

## Peanut Prices Rally From A Brief Slump

### Large Percentage Of Crop Marketed In Martin County

### Prices Now Fairly Stable At Level Slightly Above Supports

Following a brief slump earlier in the week, peanut prices on the local market recovered just about all of its losses last Friday and Saturday and is now holding to levels slightly above support levels.

It is hard to say just what the market price is, but farmers say they are receiving prices in excess of the support figures. A Cross Roads farmer said late yesterday that he received 12-1/2 cents for his peanuts, and the quality was not the best. No official figures could be had, but some farmers are said to have received thirteen or slightly better for their offerings, the sellers explaining that they had good quality goobers.

A spot survey, based on reports coming from nine out of the county's ten townships yesterday, shows that between 90 and 95 percent of the crop has been picked in this county. With the exception of a few large-scale farmers, the growers have moved their peanuts directly from the field to the markets. It is the general consensus of opinion that more than three-fourths of the crop in this county has moved out of the producers' hands.

Representatives of cleaners in Virginia were said to have visited this section Sunday and were believed to have been surprised to find so many fields bare. It is fairly apparent that the edible type of peanut is coming up short, that the market is likely to remain firm from now on out. However, some of the buyers today were said not to be so anxious for peanuts. The latest attitude compares with a report heard yesterday in which it was declared that buyers were active on the farms on Sunday in several areas.

While it is believed that prices for farmers' stock have reached near or right at the maximum market, it isn't likely that a slump, certainly no prolonged one, will follow the one reported earlier in the season. Unofficial information reaching here from some of the large dealers maintains that the demand has hardly been half met, and it is definite

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## Record Crowd At Thursday's Game

The largest attendance upon any athletic event ever held here was reported at the Plymouth-Williamston football game last Thursday night.

An estimated 2,500 persons crowded into the ball park, paying a total of \$1,818.35 in admissions.

Expenses included \$34 for the referees, \$35 guarantee, \$1.78 miscellaneous and \$199.20 federal tax, leaving a net income of \$1,541.37.

### SPECIAL SERVICE

Maintaining a custom of many years' standing, the church at Smithwick Creek will hold a special community Thanksgiving service there Thursday morning at 11:00 o'clock, it was announced by the pastor, Elder P. E. Getzinger.

All people, irrespective of denomination, are invited to attend and take part in the service, the minister said.

### PRESIDENT



V. J. "Bill" Spivey was named 1951 President of the Kiwanis Club of Williamston at an election held at the last meeting of the club. Spivey will succeed C. B. Clark, Jr.

Elected to the offices of vice-president and treasurer were R. W. "Bob" Newell and J. B. Bell. Wendell Peele, 1950 secretary, was reelected to that office.

Lay members elected to serve on the board of directors with the elected officers and the outgoing president were Cortez Green, James Manning, Vernon Bunting, J. Paul Simpson, D. R. Davis, R. P. Monteith and Marvin Britton.

## Rejections Run High At Center

No official report could be had immediately, but according to information, coming by way of the old grapevine, a large percentage of the forty-four Martin County young men reporting for pre-induction examinations at Fayetteville and Fort Bragg last Friday flunked out.

It was reported that about five out of twenty-five colored men passed, but that about seventeen out of nineteen white men were accepted for service.

One white man failed to report for the trip and was placed on the delinquent list.

No official announcement has been released, but some of those who have been delinquent with the draft bond are very likely to be included in the list scheduled to report for final induction on December 4.

## Recover A Motor And Lose Another

Outboard motors broke into the news here last week-end when one was recovered and another lost.

A 10-horsepower Mercury motor stolen from Contractor H. B. Wyatt in his tool house at the new Chevrolet garage on Washington Street a few months ago was recovered near Gardner's Creek. The thief, apparently using it from time to time, had hidden it in the woods, but a Roberson boy, fishing there, found the motor and reported his find to Sheriff M. W. Holloman.

Parking his pick-up truck beside the highway near Swan Quarter just long enough to dig worms, Farmer Clayton Bailey of near Williamston, returned a few minutes later to find his fishing tackle and a 10-horsepower Wizard outboard motor, serial number 410703 gone.

## Firemen Called Out Here Yesterday Noon

Volunteer firemen answered a call to a roaring grass and brush fire just off North Elm Street here at noon yesterday.

While no damage was done, the fire threatened several outbuildings and at least one home.

It was the second time in a week that firemen had been called to the same spot.

## Twenty-One Cases Set For Trial In Court Next Week

### Short Schedule In Effect On Account Of Holiday This Week

With only a limited number of civil cases on the calendar this week on account of the Thanksgiving holiday, the Martin County Superior Court is scheduled to work most of next week in clearing the civil calendar.

The following cases are on the calendar:

Slade-Rhodes Company is suing William Gainer to recover \$255 due on a note.

Slade-Rhodes Company is suing J. J. Pierce to recover \$489.02 debt, the defendant in a counter suit asking \$1,396.57, amount of damage alleged done him by breach of contract.

Mamie C. Cambell, is asking \$3,000, amount alleged due under terms of a separation contract. The plaintiff points out that the defendant has an interest in the H. D. Peel estate as a nephew, and makes the administrators of the estate defendants in the action.

Representative Harold Cooley of Nashville is one of the attorneys in the case.

J. H. Harrell, in the case against Ernest Judge and others, is asking \$760 damages alleged to have resulted when defendants cut and removed wood and timber from certain lands in Goose Nest Township.

S. H. Grimes is suing A. W. VanNortwick to recover \$83.33 alleged due on a note, plus interest from September 20, 1943.

On Tuesday of next week the court is slated to call the case of Jas. G. Barnhill against Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company and the Life Insurance Company of Virginia. The plaintiff is asking \$40 a month of the first company and \$50 a month of the second as compensation for disability.

In the case of John Allen Davis against P. L. Salsbury and others, the plaintiff is suing to recover two tracts of land in Florida, maintaining that debt secured by deed of trust if that of the R. W. Salsbury estate.

D. G. Matthews is suing Tidewater Piling and Timber Corporation and W. L. Winslow and J. L. Cooper for \$1,800 due under a timber contract.

Hattie T. R. Davenport is suing Thurston W. C. Davenport to recover possession of an automobile.

Standard Fertilizer Company is suing Rachel and Dewey Stewart to recover \$225.02 due on a note.

P. L. Salsbury, agent, is suing Legon Strickland for \$1,946.30 due on a farm contract.

The following cases are on the calendar for Wednesday:

John A. Revels is suing Paul Birdson to recover \$375 under a contract entered into to furnish the plaintiff a water supply.

Lucy Bryant is suing F. B. Harrell, administrator of estate of Johnnie Jones, for \$1,000, claiming that she is entitled to that amount for keeping and caring for Jones during the last fourteen months of his life.

Two persons are suing Earl

## Building Auto Supply Store

Removing the old building used at one time as a bus station, Mr. Jesse Whitley is starting construction of a modern brick and steel structure for an auto supply store on Railroad Street just back of Raynor's service station.

The building, measuring about 36 by 75 feet, will be occupied by the Welch Auto Supply Company, it was announced.

### UNION SERVICE

The annual Thanksgiving service will be held at the Christian church Thursday morning at 10:00 o'clock. The sermon will be preached by the Rev. Thomas L. Hastings, Episcopal rector. The public is invited. In the words of psalmist, "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord".