

Happy Merry Christmas to All...

THE ENTERPRISE

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OVER 3,000 MARTIN COUNTY
FAMILIES TWICE EACH WEEK

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VOLUME LVI—NUMBER 102

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, December 22, 1953

ESTABLISHED 1934

Thirty-Six Cases Heard In County Recorder's Court

Fines Imposed During The Long Session Monday Add Up To \$965

Recovered from an operation, Judge H. O. Peele was back on the bench in the Martin County Recorder's Court yesterday and during a long session imposed fines in the amount of \$965 and meted out several road sentences. Quite a few defendants lost their operators' licenses. The court has about cleared its docket and no long session is anticipated next Monday.

Proceedings:
Charged with speeding 65 miles an hour, Jas. P. Donnelly of Newton, Mass., and James Wesley Simpson were each taxed with the costs.

Vester B. Clay of RFD 1, Sharpsburg was fined \$10 plus costs, for speeding 50 miles an hour in a 35-mile zone.

Pleading guilty of bastardy, Benjamin Coffield was sentenced to the roads for six months, suspended on condition that he pay \$20 a month for the support of his child.

Johnnie Jefson Speller pleaded guilty and was fined \$100, plus costs, for drunken driving.

John B. Miles of McLeansville, N. C., was taxed with the costs for speeding 75 miles an hour.

Judgment was suspended upon appeal in the case in which William Nelson was charged with speeding 70 miles an hour in a 35-mile zone.

Johnnie Williams of Columbia, S. C., was fined \$10 and taxed with the costs for speeding 70 miles an hour.

Pleading guilty of violating the liquor laws, Tom Pitt was sentenced to the roads for three months, suspended on condition that he pay \$50 fine and costs.

England C. Andrews, pleading guilty of operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, was fined \$25, plus costs.

Charged with careless and reckless driving Richard L. Cunningham pleaded guilty and was sentenced to the roads for thirty days. The court suspended the road term upon the payment of a \$25 fine and costs and on the condition that he surrender his operator's license for six months.

Claude and Tom Jenkins, colored, pleaded guilty of violating the liquor laws and were fined \$10, plus costs.

Charged with drunken driving and operating a motor vehicle while his driver's license was revoked, Neal Gainer pleaded guilty and was sentenced to the roads for a year, the road term to be suspended upon the payment of a \$400 fine and costs. Unable to pay the fine, Gainer went to the roads.

Dawson Tyner, charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to the roads for three months, the sentence to begin at the direction of the court at any time during the next two years. The defendant was required to pay the costs.

Charged with careless and reckless driving, (Continued on Page Eight)

INVESTIGATIONS

Special agents of the North Carolina Department of Revenue started routine investigations in the county last week, according to unofficial information.

As far as it could be learned no charges have been preferred against anyone, the reports stating that the agents are investigating income tax returns and payments for the year 1950.

Judge Decorations In \$100 Prize Contest Friday Night

Holiday decorations inside the town will be judged in the \$100 prize contest Christmas night between the hours of 7:00 and 9:00 p. m., it was announced by Ed Grady, executive secretary of the Williamston Boosters, the organization sponsoring the contest.

Bad weather has delayed the artistic work, but quite a few braved the cold last week and the rain yesterday to get their decorations in place. Many more are expected to install lights and greenery on their porches and around their doorways in the next day or two. The Allen Brothers, choosing the town hall dome, are working for the \$15 prize for public decorations. Sufficient wire could not be had to light the new water tower, it was said.

A \$50 first prize is being offered for the best individual decoration. The second prize is \$30, and a third is offered in the amount of \$20 in trade coupons.

The town is rapidly taking on the holiday spirit. The personal appearance of Santa Claus each evening from 5 to 9 o'clock is adding much to the Christmas scene. He has interviewed hundreds of little tots from several counties, and he will be in his headquarters next to the Vicar Theater during those hours right on into Christmas eve.

HEARING

A hearing will be held before Judge Walter J. Bone in chambers at Nashville at 11:00 o'clock on Thursday, December 31, when the defendants will be given a chance to show cause why the Pink House should not be closed permanently.

Rated as a nuisance, the Pink House, operated by Mrs. Blanche B. Knowles in West End, was pallock under a temporary restraining order late last Thursday afternoon.

Injured In Road Wreck on Sunday

Sinar Bellere, Oak City colored man, was painfully but apparently not badly hurt early Sunday evening when his 1951 Chevrolet pick-up truck went out of control and plunged into a ditch bank on the Hassell-Gold Point road. The victim was removed in an ambulance to a hospital for treatment, one report stating that he suffered a head injury and severe shock. Damage to his truck was estimated at \$500.

Sunday shortly after 6:00 o'clock, Matthew Wesley Bissell was making a left turn into his driveway in the Farm Life section when his 1947 Dodge pick-up truck was hit by a 1947 Plymouth being driven by Dennis Hubert Barber of RFD 1, Jamesville. No one was hurt. Damage to the Plymouth was estimated at \$150 and that to the truck at \$25.

Returning to his base at Camp Lejeune Monday morning about 5:00 o'clock William Wesley Seeden struck a loose mule in highway 125 about two miles north of Oak City. Seeden was not hurt and damage to his 1947 Chrysler was estimated at \$150. A report on the animal could not be had immediately.

Overflow Crowd Hears Cantata

The choirs of the First Methodist and First Christian churches of Williamston united in an impressive cantata in the Christian church Sunday afternoon at 5:00. An overflow audience, with a few standing outside, was in attendance.

Thirty-four persons participated in the cantata entitled, "The Chorus in the Skies." All the traditional Christmas hymns were beautifully rendered under the direction of Mrs. W. H. Abernathy with Mrs. W. C. Manning at the organ.

The women of the Christian church entertained the choir members and friends at a reception immediately following the cantata, at the Methodist Recreation Hall.

The cantata was tape recorded by station WIAM for broadcast from 2 to 3 o'clock Monday.

Baker And Wynne To Direct March Of Dimes In 1954

Foundation Is Moving Into A New Era In Fight Against Polio

W. Marvin Baker and L. Bruce Wynne, will direct the 1954 March of Dimes Campaign in Martin County, it was announced today by Secretary of State Thad Eure, State March of Dimes Chairman.

In announcing the appointment, Mr. Eure said, "Mr. Baker and Mr. Wynne are well qualified to do an outstanding job in mobilizing Martin County for this most crucial March of Dimes campaign in the history of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

Pointing out that during this past summer more than 30,000 boys and girls of Caldwell, Catawba and Avery counties received free inoculations of gamma globulin in a dramatic effort to stem the rising tide of polio in that area, Eure expressed his confidence that the people of North Carolina will demonstrate their gratitude by giving more generously than ever before to the fund raising drive which will open January 2 and continue through the month.

Bast O'Connor, president of the National Foundation, in a letter to Mr. Baker, emphasized the need for an all-out effort this year. "The Foundation is now in a new era," writes O'Connor. "Re-

cently we have given us gain in the battle against polio. At tremendous cost, we have done all in our power to increase the sup-

(Continued on Page Five)

Tax Listers To Meet This Week

Meeting in the courthouse Wednesday morning, December 23, at 10:00 o'clock the Martin County tax supervisor, M. L. Peel, and the ten list-takers will study schedules for listing properties as of January 1, 1954. The tax supervisor and listers have been empowered by the commissioners to set up a schedule of values, and it is likely that a schedule similar to the one in effect for 1953, will be followed for 1954.

There'll be no new valuation, meaning that all real properties will be listed at the 1953 value except in those cases where the property has been altered, either by fire or by new building and repairs.

The list-takers named by the supervisor include:
O. W. Hamilton, Jamesville, Chas. L. Daniel, Williams Township, Lester J. Griffin, Griffins Township, Wheeler Rogerson, Bear Grass Township, C. M. Cobb, Williamston Township, G. G. Bailey, Cross Roads Township, H. S. Everett, Robersonville Township, L. G. Taylor, Poplar Point Township, L. R. Everett, Hamilton Township, and J. F. Crisp, Goose Nest Township.

The annual "Crop" drive is nearing its goal in this county, according to a semi-final report released yesterday by County Chairman Mayo Hardison. Several townships, including Williams, Poplar Point, Griffins, Hamilton, and Robersonville, reached or exceeded their quotas. And collections were right good in most of the townships.

The people with few exceptions responded very liberally and willingly to the call made in behalf of the hungry and ill clad overseas.

All townships have reported except Jamesville and the chairman there stated they were working hard to meet their \$300 quota. The drive so far has netted \$2,471.33 by townships, as follows: Goose Nest, \$235.50; Hamilton, \$300; Cross Roads, \$166.10; Williams, \$170; Poplar Point, \$167; Roberson, \$486.70; Griffins, \$303.45; Bear Grass, \$221; and Williamston, \$421.58.

Miss Coltrain On The Radio Next Tuesday

Miss Joan Carol Coltrain will broadcast over W. I. A. M. Radio Station next Tuesday, December 29 at 9:30 A. M. Her talk will be about her recent trip to Chicago as a 4-H State Winner.

\$6,950,448.60 Spent For Liquor During The Past 18 Years

Slight Upward Trend In The Sales Reported During Third Quarter

Nearly seven million dollars have been spent for legal liquor in this county since the ABC stores were opened in July, 1953, according to an official audit recently released by the Martin County Alcoholic Beverages Control Board. While the stores were taking in \$6,950,448.60 through last September 30, the board divided \$1,573,974.83 in profits to the county and several towns.

From a small start, sales in the legal stores climbed rapidly and showed a fairly consistent gain through 1945. For a few years the trend was downward, but since 1950 sales have gradually increased, a bit spasmodically but mostly upward.

As of last September 30, according to the official audit, the board had \$17,722.97 in cash on hand and inventories valued at \$37,641.92. It had \$9,165.34 accounts payable and \$28,084.20 due the county and towns with \$8,953.18 reserve for law enforcement and \$12,000 in surplus.

In handling the \$113,190.10 sales during the third quarter, the board paid \$86,577.03 to distillers. Expenses added up to \$7,755.22, including \$2,917.98 in administrative and general expenses, leaving \$18,803.72 net profit.

Profits were divided among the State, county and towns, as follows:
The State of North Carolina came out with the largest share, \$9,601.04, or more than held the total. Martin County got \$6,211.81, and \$920.27 went into the law enforcement fund. The division among the towns was, Williams ton, \$1,206.04; Robersonville, \$1,244.47; Jamesville, \$128.64; Hamilton, \$1,065.54; Parmele, \$84.25; Everetts, \$50.73.

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Jaycees Ready For Big Party

All was announced in readiness for the Jaycees' big party for the less fortunate in this area. It will be held this evening in the Scout Hut on South Smithwick Street.

Exum Ward said this morning that the party is expected to be the largest one the Jaycees have ever held. While the toy collections did not come up to expectations, numerous and liberal donations were made to the joy fund, making it possible for the sponsors to plan a gala event on an extensive scale.

Between fifty and sixty children, in the three to seven age range, will be special guests of the Jaycees at the party.

Several stills in County Destroyed

Raiding in three townships in the county last week-end, ABC Officers Cecil Bullock and Wiley Craft and Deputy Roy Peck wrecked four illicit distilleries.

On Friday the officers wrecked an oil drum and poured out 150 gallons of beer. A large steam plant was wrecked the following day in Griffins Township near the Beaufort boundary. The raider poured out 1,650 gallons of beer. A submarine type still was wrecked in Bear Grass Township that same day, the officers pouring out 400 gallons of beer. Moving into Cross Roads, the officers wrecked a 50-gallon drum still and poured out 500 gallons of beer.

COOPERATION

The most perfect cooperation ever received by a law enforcement officer in this county was reviewed in the county court here yesterday. On the morning of December 17 at 5:00 o'clock, Guy Vernon Rollins went to Patrolman Berry W. Parker's home near Robersonville and knocked on the door. The patrolman arrested the man for drunken driving, and in court yesterday Rollins pleaded guilty as charged. The usual \$100, plus costs, was paid.

Found Not Guilty In Harrell Murder Case

Jury Deliberated Only Short Time In Deciding Case

Hilda Dolberry Goes Free After Killing Ulysses Harrel At Oak City

Hilda Dolberry, 14-year-old colored girl, was found not guilty in the Martin County Superior Court last Friday morning of manslaughter. While the defendant admitted the shot and fatally injured Ulysses Tarrell, 18-year-old colored boy, she maintained she acted in self-defense.

Apparently the case rated a close decision, but the jury deliberated the issues less than fifteen minutes before reaching a verdict. While the girl possibly had no business using excessive force in the case, one jurist was heard to remark that Harrell had no business there.

The case was called just before the noon recess Thursday and all the evidence was heard along with the defense argument before the recess late that afternoon.

State witness said that Harrell drove to the Dolberry home with five other parties, presumably to get water for his car radiator. Each of the witnesses said he stopped the car at the side of the house, that Harrell got out and went to the front door and returned ten minutes later, and started to drive away. The defendant was said to have cursed Harrell and he got out of the car and went to the window, that he cursed the defendant, "If you don't go away from my car, I'll shoot you," the defendant was quoted as saying. Seconds later, the fatal shot was fired.

The defense maintained that Harrell tried to force his way into the home where the defendant and eleven of her brothers and sisters were keeping house while the parents were away.

Th Dolberry home is near Oak City, and the attack took place early in the evening of last September 25.

While there could be some doubt about the young girl using too much force under the circumstances, one thing is certain, (Continued on Page Seven)

Four Divorces In Superior Court

Before quitting its one-week term last Friday, the Martin County Superior Court granted four divorces and handed down an order or two in civil cases.

All the divorces were based on grounds of two years of separation and were not contested.

Cleveland Godard, granted a divorce from Eliza Godard, was directed by the court to pay \$30 a month for the support of his children. The court also ordered the plaintiff to pay \$50 to the attorneys representing the children.

Other divorces were granted: Ruth Baker from Frank Baker; Annie Spruill from James Spruill; Ethel Williams Hines from W. A. Hines.

In the action brought by H. A. Bowen, administrator of the estate of Robert H. Leggett, against Bruce Leggett and others, the court found that the estate was not sufficient to pay off certain debts, and it ordered certain lands in Bear Grass Township sold on January 18, 1954, to satisfy the claims.

Superior Court In Final Session Of Term Last Friday

Many Cases Continued Un- til Next March Term For Trial

Following a busy week devoted to the trial of criminal cases mainly, the Martin County Superior Court folded its tent and moved away early last Friday afternoon. While many cases were continued, a review of the docket shows that eight persons were sentenced to prison or the roads, one for life. Several others were fined and taxed with court costs. At the same time, quite a few defendants found a sympathetic jury working for them in the box. Proceedings not previously reported:

J. T. Briley, charged with assaulting Larine Raynor, small colored girl in Hamilton, was found not guilty following a trial lasting several hours. The man's identity apparently was not determined to the satisfaction of the jury.

Charged with the larceny of an automobile, hit-and-run driving and operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, Bill Samuel Atkinson pleaded guilty of operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, and the court directed verdicts of not guilty on the other charges. Atkinson, held in jail for a month in default of bond, was sentenced to the roads for thirty days. Judge Wallace DeWitt, Jr., presided.

Williamson, lost control of his 1951 Chevrolet on a road near Williamston and ran it into a tree, doing about \$500 damage to his machine. The car skidded 72 yards down the road and continued about 26 more yards before striking the tree, the investigating officer said.

The following drunken driving cases were continued: Luther Bryant Mazingo, Clarence Poe Joyner, Benjamin Harrison Lewis, Henry Gray, Chas. L. Bland, L. D. Lanier, Joseph C. Ross, James T. Whitley, Robert E. Linton and Ernest Spruill.

The charges of disposing of mortgaged property against Dempsey Roberson and Larceny against William Spruill, alias Red Bone, were dismissed, and the seduction case against Donnie H. Long was not prosed.

A continuance was allowed in the careless and reckless driving case against Earl V. Tetterton.

Willie Brantley, charged with bigamy, failed to answer when called, and papers were issued for his arrest.

The following cases also were continued: Edward Harrison, robbery of person, Frederick Willard Harrison, speeding 90 miles (Continued on Page Seven)

Two Fire Alarms Here Last Friday

Local residents were cautious in firing their heaters and furnaces during the first few days of the cold snap that struck this section last week. The local fire department was called to no homes or business houses, but two general alarms were sounded when grass fires were about to spread to the buildings last Friday afternoon and evening.

A first call was received about 2:45 that afternoon to the Will Taylor farm, a few miles out on Highway 17. The fire was under control when the truck reached there.

A second alarm was sounded about 7:20 that evening when a brush fire was about to go out of control at the Carolina Yam storage on Washington Street. A follow-up call advised the fire was under control, and the fire-fighting equipment was not moved out of its stall.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Remaining open each evening until 9:00 o'clock, Williamston stores and other business firms will close Thursday night for a three-day holiday—Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Business will be resumed next Monday morning, the 28th, at the usual hour.

In keeping with a long custom, The Enterprise will have no second edition this week, and the mechanical department will be closed until next Monday.

Minor Accidents On County Roads

No one was injured and property damage was limited to less than \$600 in two recent automobile accidents on the roads in this county, according to a report released this week by Patrolman B. W. Parker.

S. T. Jackson lost control of his 1941 Chevrolet in a curve a short distance out of Robersonville on the old Everetts road and ditched it, causing about \$50 damage. The investigating officer said a tire blew out.

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Arrest Two Men At Liquor Plant

Two men, Jesse Council and Cecil Williams, were arrested late last Wednesday afternoon at a crude liquor plant near Williamston just a few hundred yards away from the Prison Camp road. ABC Officers Cecil Bullock and Wiley Craft and special agents made the raid.

The plant was equipped with a crude 50-gallon gas drum still. The officers poured out about 150 gallons of sloppy beer.

Given a preliminary hearing before U. S. Commissioner Taylor in Washington Tuesday, the two men were released in \$300 bond each. They are to be tried in the federal court at Washington next April.

ROUND-UP

Except for those who imbibed too freely, all was quiet on the crime front in this county last week-end. Nine drunks were rounded up and jailed. Four of the nine were white and one of the other five was a colored woman. The ages of the group ranged from 21 to 41 years.