

# THE ENTERPRISE

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## Call Twenty-Two Cases In County Recorder's Court

### Little Slump Reported In Court Business During Week

A little slump hit the business of the Martin County Recorder's Court last Monday when only twenty-two cases were called for trial, court officials predicting that business is likely to be limited during the course of the next several weeks. A few cases were continued for defendants, some for a week and others for two weeks. Fines, assessed during the two-hour session of the court this week, added up to only \$95, the smallest "take" reported in several months.

Proceedings: The case in which George Jefferson Kelly was charged with speeding 55 miles an hour in a truck, was not prossed.

Andrew Thomas, pleading guilty of operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, was sentenced to the roads for ninety days, suspended upon the payment of a \$25 fine and costs. A similar judgment was entered against the defendant when he was booked in a second case for the same offense, the sentences to run concurrently.

Charged with drunken driving, James E. Peele was adjudged not guilty.

Glenn Charles Clark was fined \$10, plus costs for speeding 70 miles an hour.

The case in which Robt. Lewis Jones was charged with speeding 55 miles an hour, was not prossed.

Facing the court on two liquor law violation counts, Charlie Phillips pleaded guilty and was sentenced to the roads for thirty days in the first and 60 days in the second case, the sentences to run consecutively if a \$50 fine and costs are not paid.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the costs and the amount of the instrument in the case in which W. W. Bolton was charged with issuing a worthless check.

Pleading guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon and resisting arrest, Calvin Green was sentenced to the roads for three months.

Pleading not guilty, Ervin Wynne was adjudged of non-support and was sentenced to the roads for six months.

Charged with speeding 65 miles an hour, John Thomas Gray, Alfred Martin, Robert Gray Ewell and James Lowell Everett pleaded guilty and each was taxed with the costs.

Charged with possession of non-tax paid liquor, L. C. Mizelle pleaded guilty and was sentenced to the roads for three months. He appealed to the higher court and bond was fixed in the sum of \$200.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the cost in the case in which Willis Griffin was charged with an assault with a deadly weapon.

Octavious Roberson was fined \$10, plus costs, for an assault with a deadly weapon. He pleaded guilty.

The case in which James Andrews was charged with an assault with a deadly weapon was not prossed.

Pleading guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon, C. Silverthorne was sentenced to the roads for ninety days, the sentence to begin at the direction of the court at any time within the next two years.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the costs when James Elbert Perry pleaded guilty of careless and reckless driving.

Charged with speeding 45 miles an hour in a 35-mile zone, Paul L. Slade pleaded guilty and was taxed with the court costs.

## Postpone Demonstration Planned Near Hamilton

A demonstration for the control of plant diseases and insects in tobacco plant beds scheduled for this afternoon on the Henry S. Johnson farm near Hamilton has been postponed. No new date for the event has been definitely set, but it is planned to hold it sometime next week.

Gas fumes are used in the demonstration, some farmers declaring gas offers the best method for controlling nematodes, weeds and insects in plant beds.

## Half-Holiday Schedule To Go Into Effect January 20

Williamston retail firms will start closing Wednesday afternoons next week on the 20th, it was announced yesterday following a tabulation of votes and a full-dress discussion at a meeting of representatives of retail firms in the Williamston Boosters office Tuesday.

As a service to its members, the Boosters, polled the retail merchants, and of the 23 votes cast, nineteen favored the half-holiday schedule and four opposed the schedule.

At a meeting of the retail firm representatives Tuesday, a compromise was effected, calling for all-day business hours on the first two Wednesday in April or just prior to Easter. The schedule will be dropped on the Wednesday of the week the tobacco markets open shortly after the middle of August.

The closing hour for the winter half holidays was fixed at 12:30 o'clock.

The schedule is not expected to include a few offices, garages and heavy industry which observe a half holiday or an all-day holiday on Saturdays.

The action, calling for the half holiday schedule from January to tobacco marketing time, is in keeping with similar action taken in numerous towns throughout the State, including quite a few in this section of eastern North Carolina. Several local firms, including the barbershops, are already observing the Wednesday half-holiday schedule.

## STOCKHOLDERS

Martin County Building and Loan Association stockholders are scheduled to meet here next Monday morning at 11:00 o'clock in the offices of Wheeler Martin, secretary.

The meeting will review the operations of the association for the past year, determine and transact other business, including the election of directors and other officers.

## Two More Road Wrecks Reported

Two more accidents were reported on the highways in the county this week, the investigating patrol members explaining that no one was injured and that the property damage was less than \$600.

Traveling toward Robersonville last Sunday morning about 11:00 o'clock on Highway 903, Alonza Harrison, colored of RFD 1, Robersonville, lost control of his 1950 Pontiac and the machine turned over. Damage to the car was estimated at \$500. Neither Harrison nor his companion, Manning Harrington, also colored of RFD 1, Stokes, was hurt.

Harrison, apparently speeding, was booked for drunken driving and is slated for trial in the county court next Monday.

Edward Slade Peele, III, of RFD 3, Williamston, started to pass a school bus on Highway 125 about two miles from Williamston, Tuesday afternoon about 4:10 o'clock and cut back to his right too quickly and struck the bus which was being driven by Booker Taft Smithwick of RFD 1, Williamston. No one was hurt and only the car was damaged, the investigating officer estimating the damage to Peele's 1950 Chevrolet at \$50.

## Farmers Allowed To Sell Sausage

Contrary to reports, intentionally or unintentionally made, farmers may sell fresh meats, including green country sausage, to stores for retail or to consumers directly.

It was pointed out however, that the retailer must comply with meat market regulations. An establishment having no sanitary rating may not handle fresh sausage or other fresh meats, but such an establishment may handle prepackaged meats and poultry, including such items that have been packaged at an abattoir, meat processing plant, poultry processing plant, or regular meat market prior to shipment to the retail establishment. Packages may not be broken at the retail place, however. Any establishment may sell fat back and cured side meat which may be cut as sold, and also sell country-cured hams, shoulders and cured link sausage.

## League Representative To Address The Lions

Leigh Wilson of the North Carolina League of Municipalities, Raleigh, will address the regular meeting of the Lions Club in the Woman's Club hall here this evening at 7:00 o'clock. Mr. Wilson is expected to discuss the proposed zoning ordinance for the town.

The zoning plan is to be placed before the people at a public hearing February 4.

## Marriages Last Month Near The All-Time Record

But Weddings In County In 1953 Trail Far Below Record Of 1946

Forty-two marriage licenses, the second largest number on record, were issued in this county last month by Register of Deeds J. Sam Getsinger. But even with the near record, the number of weddings in the county last year trailed by more than 100 the issuance recorded for the peak year of 1946. Interrupted by the war, Cupid in 1946 was busy catching up with his work and went on to arrange 335 matches during that period.

Although 42 marriage licenses were issued, 16 to white and 26 to colored couples last month, the 230 weddings in the county last year were two less than the count in 1952, but considerably above the average for the three previous years.

A review of the business at the marriage license bureau in the county from 1931 through 1953 follows, by years:

Year	White	Colored	Total
1931	62	64	126
1932	84	74	158
1933	103	166	269
1934	116	165	281
1935	122	129	251
1936	117	139	256
1937	147	146	293
1938	126	158	284
1939	81	78	159
1940	92	81	173
1941	126	100	226
1942	100	120	220
1943	74	129	203
1944	72	118	190
1945	95	114	209
1946	145	190	335
1947	128	178	306
1948	132	139	271
1949	110	110	220
1950	106	106	212
1951	111	106	217
1952	109	123	232
1953	115	115	230
Totals	2473	2845	5318

Other than the totals little can be gained from the review except possibly the glaring effect war has on Cupid's work. However, it is fairly evident that the number of marriages has not increased proportionately with the gain in population.

Marriage licenses were issued in December, 1953, to the following:

### White

Charles Leon Wilson and Doris Little, both of Robersonville. Eugene Kent Hinman of Hobgood and Lael Bunting of Oak City. John W. Marslender of Williamston and Ruth Coltrain of Robersonville.

### Colored

Elijah Earl Williams of RFD 1, Oak City. Henry Leon Latham of Williamston. Charles Phillips, Jr., of Parrale. Curtis Lee Smith of RFD 1, Bethel. John Wheeler Slade of RFD 3, Williamston. Columbus Andrews of RFD 2, Robersonville. Rorace Dan Spruill of Williamston. Elton Howard Wallace of Everetts. A final induction call is likely in March.

## Officers Installed By Local Masons

Recently elected, officers were installed by Skewarkey Masons at a regular meeting in the lodge hall, corner of Church and Smithwick Streets, last Tuesday evening. S. H. Grimes, a past master, and J. C. Manning, marshal, were in charge of the installation rites.

John Edwin Manning succeeds Ernest P. Capps as master. Other officers for the new year are: R. Vernon Bunting, senior warden; Rupert Earl Cowan, junior warden; V. J. Spivey, treasurer; Julian H. Harrell, secretary; Charles W. Coltrain, senior deacon; J. H. Forbes, junior warden; John L. House and Ben U. Bunting, stewards; Ernest P. Capps, Tyler; Paul Bailey, Chaplain; and N. C. Green, R. H. Smith and E. P. Capps, trustees.

The lodge is concluding an attendance contest next month, reports stating that the average attendance upon the meetings has been well over 100 members.

## Native Of Town Dies In Hospital At Dunn Tuesday

Funeral Being Conducted In Dunn Today For Mrs. Belle Godard

Mrs. Belle E. Godard, a native of Williamston, died in a hospital at Dunn Tuesday midnight. She had been declining health for a number of years, but her condition was not considered critical until she suffered an attack of pneumonia and entered the hospital last Saturday.

The daughter of the late J. H. and Isabell Hatton Ellison, she was born on Hatton Street here 80 years ago and spent her early life here. Following her marriage to J. Gus Godard she made her home in Windsor a short time, locating about fifty-four years ago in Dunn where Mr. Godard engaged in the lumber business until his death in 1919.

She joined the Methodist Church in Williamston when a young girl and was active in religious work in her adopted community down through the years.

Surviving are a son, James Ellison Godard, and a daughter, Mrs. Fannie Thomas, both of Dunn; and a brother, John R. Ellison, of Suffolk, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services are being conducted at the home in Dunn this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by her pastor, the Rev. J. W. Lineberger, assisted by the Rev. R. R. Gammon. Interment will follow in the family plot in the cemetery there.

## Speeders Booked By The Thousands

Raleigh—Speeding topped a year end report of traffic violations requiring the surrender of driving privileges the State Department of Motor Vehicles said today.

For the year 1953, 42,116 Tar Heel drivers had their operators' licenses revoked for exceeding the speed limit. The top figure was followed by reckless driving, reported at 13,575.

Driving without a license was in third place with 12,239 revocations.

The annual summary listed miscellaneous violations such as faulty equipment, failing to stop for a stop sign, improper passing and following too closely, which brought the 1953 total of license revocations to 86,680.

Licensing officials noted this was a decrease of 21,290 from the previous year.

## Marine Recruiting Office Is Closed

Sgt Clifford A. Jackson, local Marine Recruiter announces that the recruiting office in Washington has been closed due to recent budget cuts in the Armed Forces. After Sgt. Jackson leaves this area there will be no Marine Recruiter in this immediate vicinity. However young men who desire to join the Marine Corps may do so by going to the recruiting offices at either Raleigh or Norfolk.

## THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

During the first ten days of the current year, motorists piled up vehicles in highway accidents at the rate of slightly more than one a day. A count from the N. C. Highway Patrol office and police departments placed the count for the first ten days at eleven accidents. No one was killed but there were eleven persons injured, and the property damage jumped to the shocking figure of \$7,200.

Motorists, using the highways in this county seem to have a gift for starting a new year with a bang. In the first eleven days of 1953 there were fifteen accidents, but only three persons were injured and the property loss was placed at \$3,480.

In 1952 the count during the first week was six wrecks, five injured and a property loss of \$3,415.

## Commission To Hold Hearing On Zoning To Discuss Newly Proposed

NO ACTION

## Early Next Month

Proposal Call For Business Expansion On West Main-Washington Streets

Williamston's newly proposed zoning plan is to be aired at a public hearing to be held in the courthouse on the evening of February 4, it was learned yesterday. The plan will be explained by a representative of the North Carolina League of Municipalities and the public will have an opportunity to approve or reject any part of or the proposal in its entirety. All citizens whether they own property or not will be invited to attend the meeting, study the proposal and make recommendations.

In a recent meeting members of the zoning commission, including Mrs. Edna Bondurant, and Messrs. W. B. Gaylord, John Hatton Gurganus and G. P. Hall, studied the survey as prepared by Leigh Wilson of the League of Municipalities. A few changes were suggested by the commission, and the commission ordered the plan submitted to the public for change, approval or rejection. If the proposal receives public endorsement at the hearing, it will then be submitted to the town commissioners for adoption.

The zoning plan while far reaching in some respects, is limited in others, it was pointed out. The plan sets aside certain areas for residential, business and industrial building. A residence may be built in any of the areas, but a business establishment or a factory may not set up in a residential zone, and an industrial enterprise may not set up in a business zone.

The zoning plan provides for business expansion mainly on West Main to Elm Street and on Washington to a point near the Jamesville Road intersection. Industrial development is centered to the south and southeast areas of the town, for the most part, but no zoning of any kind was attempted along or near the highway truck route now under construction.

In the main residential areas the zoning plan would make it unlawful to build a home closer than eight to ten feet from the property line, and the front of the house must be kept in line with other structures, or on an average when no uniform line is established. There are certain restrictions on apartment house construction in certain areas.

The zoning plan makes no attempt to specify types of construction, it was pointed out. Fire codes and regulations are not altered in the least by the proposed plan.

Establishments, business or industrial, cannot be touched in their present locations. For instance, the warehouse district cannot be touched in its present location. Should the owners of the houses choose to tear down the present structures, they could replace them within a year, provided they met the fire regulations.

The proposed zoning ordinance looks to the future. It could have stopped that certain type of construction on South Haughton Street that brought such vigorous protests from other property owners. However, the construction cannot be altered by the ordinance now.

## Highway Safety Meeting Subject

"Highway Safety" will be the subject of the program of the Williamston Woman's Club which meets Tuesday, January 19th at 8:00 P. M. in the Club home.

Cpl. M. C. Byrum of the North Carolina Highway Patrol will speak on the subject and the highly praised motion picture "A Day in Court" will be shown.

As a public service the driving class of the Williamston High School and all teen-age drivers, as well as the general public are invited to attend. Each member of the Woman's Club is urged to bring a guest to this program meeting.

## Rotary Exchange Student Speaks To Club Tuesday

Miss Berit Hillesland Of Norway Studying At E. C. College

Showing the rejection of the proposed site on North Smithwick Street, no action has been taken to find another location for a bus terminal here, as far as it could be learned today. Representatives of the company said they knew of no action having been taken, and town officials stated they had heard of no site inquiries.

Agents of the operating companies left soon after the public hearing held in connection with the Smithwick Street site last Monday night, and as far as it could be learned nothing was said at that time or since about another site.

Expressing her appreciation for the Rotary scholarship and the wonderful opportunity to visit America and make new friends and study their customs, Miss Hillesland said she was impressed by the hospitality and friendliness of the American people. "I was made to feel at home at once," the young lady declared, using splendid English for one who had been in this country less than four months.

Miss Hillesland told about her country, describing its geography and its chief sources of income, adding that the merchant and whaling ships helped maintain a fairly high standard of living. Living in a small town, Skudenshavn, on an island about thirteen miles long and about five miles wide, the student touched on a familiar subject when she mentioned herring fishing. The herring season opens there in February and the catches are made by individuals and sold to processing plants for processing. Even the scales and bones are used, she said, adding that many of the fish, packed in tubs, were exported to Germany and Russia. She said her town was, literally speaking, built on herring bones.

The Norwegianians are great readers, and the schools start teaching English in the sixth grade. It is a required subject in the high schools.

Wearing a costume, common in her part of Norway, Miss Hillesland said that the customs there vary according to areas, that, after all, they are not too different from the customs in this country. Norway's religion, according to the young student, is centered in the Lutheran Church, but there are many other denominations. About 97 percent belong to the Lutheran denomination, which is supported by the State. Religion is taught in the public schools.

The visitor briefly reviewed the occupation of her country during the war when she was six years old. When the Germans were chased out by the Russians they destroyed considerable property, and the country has struggled to repair the damage, she explained.

She pointed out that the impression one gets of this country in the movies is all wrong. "I soon learned that all Americans are not gangsters, cow boys or millionaires. Indeed, I found America much better than I expected," she said.

The young lady's talk proved most interesting and was greatly enjoyed by the club members and several guests.

She has appeared before several other clubs in this district since coming to this country last fall.

## Farm Life Club To Meet Tuesday

The Farm Life Ruritan Club will hold its first meeting of the new year next Tuesday evening at 7:00 o'clock in the lunch room. The newly install officers will preside for the first time, and a general appeal is being directed to all members, urging them to be present and offer a 100 percent support to the new leaders.

The Maple Grove Ladies Aid will serve dinner.

## County Native Chairman Of National Bank Board

Mr. R. G. Harrison, native of this county and a Williamston resident for a number of years, was re-elected chairman of the First National Bank of Henderson board of directors a short time ago. The Henderson institution lists assets at nearly five and one-half million dollars.

## X-Rays Slowed By The Cold Weather

After maintaining a fairly full schedule during the first few days, the current TB survey has been greatly slowed by cold weather in the county this week, according to a report released by the health department this morning.

It was reported that 2,887 X-ray pictures had been up during the first week of the survey. Only 378 pictures were made in Williamston Tuesday and Wednesday. Hamilton reported 149 X-rays taken there Tuesday. Yesterday, 261 turned out despite the weather to have their X-rays made in Jamesville.

One of the mobile X-ray units continues in Williamston and will operate through Saturday of next week. The other unit is completing its second day in Jamesville today, and will go to Bear Grass tomorrow. Saturday morning it will be moved to Robersonville where it will operate through Saturday, January 23.

The units are open each week day except Monday from 11:00 a. m. until 5:00 p. m.

Joe Peele, aged blacksmith, died in a local hospital this morning at 6:20 o'clock.

Mistaken for a burglar, he was shot by his wife at their home on Washington Street January 2, the bullet entering the hip and ranging upward. He was recovering from the pistol wound when a heart condition developed, and that caused his death.

An able smithy, he was employed by the Woolards in making the first Woolard harrows half century or more ago. After the company suspended operations he operated his own blacksmith shop in the yard of his home near Sunnyside Market, and was active until he was shot.

He was a church leader and a good citizen, lending his support to all worthy causes. He was about 70 years of age.

Funeral arrangements had not been completed shortly before noon today.

The Peeles had heard prowlers around their home for several nights, and before day on January 2, he got up to investigate. He raised the window and about that time his wife woke up, and thinking her husband was a burglar, took a pistol and fired on him.

Loses Fingers In Farm Accident Yesterday

Henry Peele, young colored man, lost two of his fingers in a hog killing accident on the Simon Coltrain farm in Griffins Township yesterday. It was reported that he caught his finger in a power sausage mill. Following treatment in a local hospital, he was able to return home.

## Community Concert In Elizabeth City Friday

Andrew McKinley, tenor, will appear in one of the Community Concert programs at Elizabeth City tomorrow night in the high school auditorium. Members of the Martin County Community Concert association are invited.