

# TIMELY TOPICS

CRIME DOESN'T PAY  
NEGRO HEALTH WEEK  
WHO WAS RIGHT?  
TAX FOR RELIEF

Crime doesn't pay. It may produce dividends for a short while but in the end the criminal is left holding the bag. Seven Kent counties, three of them negroes, who thought they were bigger than the law, have already begun prison sentences ranging from 18 months to six and a half years for their part in the operation of the illicit still and the assault on Federal officers who sought to destroy the plant.

The operation of the still was a crime and the operators were violating the law. They were liable to grave penalties if caught. But when they sought to take the law into their own hands, and drive off the officers with shotguns, they were anything but smart. And they will have plenty of time to realize their mistakes.

In these days when the Federal government is cussed for about everything, and with much of the cussing justified, one thing must be said in its favor. It doesn't dilly-dally with those convicted of offenses against its statutes. Uncle Sam makes the criminal pay and pay promptly.

Kent, next week, again will observe National Negro Health Week, a project in which it has gained nationwide prominence. An elaborate program, as in other years, has been arranged, lasting throughout the week.

Too many of us, perhaps, are likely to scoff at Negro Health Week as just another fad, a waste of time and money.

Although such is the attitude usually taken by a selfish person, one expressing such a view is hardly considering himself. Negro Health Week is important to all, not just the negroes alone.

A chain is no stronger than its weakest link and the health of a community no better than its unhealthiest group. An epidemic among the negroes would spread rapidly to the whites through the various contacts between the two races. Consider how many homes are serviced by members of the negro race and how many times a day you come in contact with colored people and the real selfish viewpoint will be one of wanting the health of the negro race to be improved and safe-guarded as much as possible.

In the "Open Forum" this week is a letter, self explanatory, which we commend to every thoughtful reader. The writer, Martin Higgins, a Talbot countian, has passed four score of years on this earth and has ever been alive to the happenings about him. The letter, with its reprint from The Baltimore Sun's letter column during 1933, offers an interesting situation. The views of two men upon the then newly-elected President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt, are given. It is interesting to note which of the two proved to be the better prophet.

But, read for yourself and decide for yourself which had the low-down on the nation's Chief Executive. The letter may be found on page five.

The squabble in the Maryland General Assembly over the means of raising money for relief in the State was brought to an end last night with the adoption of a bill providing for a tax of one per cent on gross receipts. The county legislators finally succumb to this bill when it became apparent that under its provisions, Baltimore, where 86 per cent of the relief money will go, would raise approximately that amount in taxes.

That, apparently, settles the problem of money for relief. But it doesn't settle the bigger and more important topic, the question of relief itself. There is entirely too much of this relief business and nothing is holding the county back any more than its various relief projects.

All clear-thinking citizens realize that relief is greatly abused, that the country, the needy themselves, would be better off without such elaborate schemes for relief. But it appears that nothing short of a general uprising will bring an end to this spree of giving the nation into bankruptcy.

### ALMANAC

"A false friend and a shadow attend only when the sun shines."

MARCH

- 26—Indians attack and sack Marlboro, Mass., 1676
- 27—P. Blaise gets his patent on the cork screw, 1850
- 28—"Mr. Dooley," popular song hit, published 1902.
- 29—Vera Cruz, Mexico, surrenders to General Scott, 1847.
- 30—Alaska is purchased from the Russians, 1867.
- 31—Perry signs "open door" treaty with Japan, 1854.

APRIL

- 1—England imposes a tax on all bachelors, 1695.

VOL. XLII. NO. 27.

CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND WEDNESDAY, MAR. 27, 1935

\$1.00 A YEAR IN ADVANCE

## J. H. Thompson Dies Here After Short Illness

### Was Member Of Board Of Election Supervisors

### LONG ACTIVE FIREMAN

### Funeral Services Held From Home Yesterday

J. Hyde Thompson, a member of the Board of Election Supervisors for Kent county, died at his home on High street early Saturday morning after a brief illness. He was thirty years of age.

Long an active fireman, having been a member of the Chestertown Volunteer Fire Company for forty years and serving for many years as assistant chief, he was also a member of the local Masonic lodge and a member of Christ Methodist Protestant Church. For many years he was associated with his father in business on High street.

Surviving him are his widow, Mrs. Hattie E. Thompson, and a sister, Miss Mamie Thompson.

Funeral services were held yesterday afternoon from his late home with the Rev. Dr. W. H. Litsinger, pastor of Christ M. P. Church, officiating, assisted by the Rev. C. L. Atwater, rector of Emmanuel P. E. Church and chaplain of the Chestertown Volunteer Fire Company. Members of the Fire Company attended the services in a body.

Members of the Chester Lodge of Masons had charge of the burial services. The bearers were as follows: Fred G. Usilton, A. L. Sparks, C. E. Noland, Dr. H. G. Simpers, J. Raymond Simpers and Frank V. Simpers. Interment was made at Chester Cemetery. Dodd and Usilton were the funeral directors in charge.

## Betterton Fighters On Card At Baltimore Club

Tex Nichols, Betterton heavyweight, lost and Henry Gonzales, headliner of Red Smith's Betterton stable, got a draw in their appearance on the boxing card at Carlin's Park, Baltimore, Monday night.

Commenting on the fights the Baltimore News-Post said: "One of the high spots of the evening was the Veterans' first-round knockout of Tex Nichols, of Betterton. Text took a count of ten, then clamored to his spangels and started to fight again. Nichols was chased out of the ring only with great difficulty. He claimed afterwards that he is a bit deaf and couldn't hear the count."

"The only bad decision handed down last night was Sam Baccala's draw with Henry Gonzales, of Betterton. Baccala dodged it for three rounds and did nothing of note in the fourth. The hard-punching Gonzales pursued Baccala, who ran away throughout the fight, hit him at will and had him on the floor twice in the second round for a count of nine. Gonzales won by a mile."

## Kent Teacher Attends Adult Group Meeting

### Mrs. Reba V. Wharton At Centreville Session

Mrs. Reba V. Wharton, teacher on special assignment in Kent county for Adult Education work, was among a group of similar workers attending a meeting of Eastern Shore directors in Centreville last Friday. Kent's report of 42 classes organized and nine more in the process of formation was one of the best on the Shore. General home-making, sewing, food and gardening and home nursing classes have been formed for both white and colored women all over the county and group singing is offering a recreational outlet. Sign painting, show card writing, business arithmetic, spelling and shorthand classes afford vocational and business training and in eleven of the classes elementary school subjects are taught to those lacking a knowledge of the fundamentals.

Dr. Fred G. Livingood, of the Washington College faculty, presided at the afternoon meeting at Centreville on Friday and Dr. E. Clarke Fontaine, of Chestertown, spoke, his topic being "The Relation of Adult Education to the High Schools." He emphasized the important work which might be done by Adult classes in training for citizenship through a study of social, economic and political conditions and discussed the value of efficient training in intelligent reading and interpretation of news items.

## Conducted Recreational Classes In Kent Last Week



MISS ETHEL BOWERS

Fifty-six Kent countians enrolled last week in the recreational schools conducted about the county by Miss Ethel Bowers of the National Recreation Association who is working in Maryland under the Extension Service.

The course offered instruction in get-acquainted games or mixers, brain teasers, active games, quiet games, musical mixers, observation games and recreational singing.

Four teams were organized in Kent to carry out the work. The teams are located at Swan Creek, Fairland, Fairlee and Still Pond. Each team has leaders for the various kinds of games.

## Interest Keen In Lespedezas Growth In Kent

### County Agent Explains Reason For Interest

County Agent J. D. McVean announced that interest in the use of the various lespedezas is unusually keen this spring due to the scarcity and high prices on the more common grass seeds. The use of Korean Lespedeza is encouraged in connection with other seeds, as a means of maintaining the costs. Mr. McVean gives warning, however, that lespedezas are not suitable or dependable for early pasture, since they are hot weather plants and furnish grazing during the hot summer and early fall months when most grasses are at a stand still.

Other seed such as timothy, red top, orchard grass and the like should be seeded with the lespedeza to furnish the early spring growth to insure early spring pasture. The Korean lespedeza may give a fair hay crop and will do well on land where other clovers fail. On permanent pasture land the Common Lespedeza or Japan Clover is recommended, although the Korean variety will do well unless over grazed, Mr. McVean said.

Sweet clover, if the land is suitable, will furnish early spring grazing and grazing all season through if not over grazed. Sweet clover however requires a sweet soil and many farmers do not succeed with sweet clover due to the lime need of their soils.

The lespedezas, both Common and Korean, according to Mr. McVean, grow each year for mazel—not from the roots. Only one perennial lespedeza has been developed thus far, known as the Seracia, which comes from the roots but still being a hot weather plant will not furnish early grazing as compared with sweet clover or grasses. Several cases of sweet clover being mistaken for Korean Lespedeza and Seracia have been noted. The error is easily made when the Seracia is easily made by two tests distinguishing the one from the other; first, the sweet clover has a distinctive taste and odor; 2nd, the sweet clover grows earlier than will the Seracia. The Korean as well as the Common Lespedeza will die with the first killing frost in the fall and will appear the next summer only when the seeds of the previous year germinate and grow.

## Mrs. Katherine J. Gale, 81, Died Near Here Thursday

Mrs. Katherine J. Gale, 81, daughter of the late Isaac Deputy, died near Chestertown on Thursday, March 21, 1935. She is survived by two half-sisters, Mrs. Emma Clothier, Worton, and Mrs. Janie Legg, Philadelphia as well as three nieces, Mrs. Katie Usilton, Worton; Mrs. Raymond Linsby, Chestertown and Mrs. William Davis, Quaker Neck.

Burial services were held Saturday, March 23, at 2 P. M. at Old St. Paul's Cemetery, the Rev. William Wylie in charge. Dodd and Usilton were the undertakers in charge of funeral arrangements.

## Prison Terms Given Seven In Assault Case

### Charged With Firing Upon Federal Officers

### TRIO GET 6 1/2 YEAR TERM

### Rodney, Not In Shooting, Given 18 Months

Charged with assaulting a Federal officer and operating an unlicensed still three Kent men, Albert R. Clayton, John Clayton and Merritt M. Meekins, Monday were sentenced by Judge William C. Coleman, in the United States District Court, to prison terms totaling six and a half years each. Five years of the sentences were on the assault charges and eighteen months additional were given each for the operation of the illicit still.

Three negroes, John W. Wilson, Jefferson Freeman and Edward Butler, were given a year and a day on the assault charges and a year and a day for the still charges, the terms to run consecutively.

The seventh defendant, Wilbur Rodney, who plead guilty to participation in the operation of the still, and who was not named in the assault charge, was sentenced to a term of 18 months.

Testimony at the trial, held in Baltimore on Friday and Monday, was to the effect that while William T. Roe, Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue, and Deputy Sheriff of Kent county, John N. Bennett, Jr., and Archie LeSage, were investigating a still, the six men convicted, armed with shotguns and wearing masks, opened fire upon the officers. The officers returned the fire, wounding Albert Clayton in the hip.

All were later arrested, the wounded man while he was undergoing treatment at the office of a Still Pond physician. A hearing at Salisbury resulted in holding the men for the Baltimore court.

In imposing sentence, Judge Coleman said he believed the Negroes had been brought into the affair by the others and for that reason he would not impose such heavy sentences in their cases.

He also commented on the serious view the court took of the operation of illicit stills. He said, too, that the taking of the law into their own hands as had been done by the defendants would not be tolerated by the courts.

## Mother Of Clarence Wilson Dies In Bridgeville, Del.

Mrs. Clara Wilson, wife of William T. Wilson, died this morning at her late home, Bridgeville, Del., after a long illness, aged 68 years.

She is survived by a husband and the following children: Clarence T. Wilson, of Chestertown; Peter J. of Harrington, Del.; Mrs. George Dings, of Chester, Pa.; Mrs. Marvel Tooney, of Georgetown, Del.; Mrs. William James, of Sanford, Del.; Mrs. Fred Rodgers, of Ellendale, Del.; Kendall Wilson, Bridgeville, and John Wilson of Harrington, Del. Funeral arrangements had not been completed at hour of going to press.

## Funeral Services Held For Late Mrs. William L. Gibson

Funeral services were held in Baltimore Saturday afternoon for Mrs. William L. Gibson, 47, youngest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Carville Maslin, of Kent county, who died Thursday night following an emergency operation at Mercy Hospital.

She is survived by her husband, of Syracuse, N. Y., and the following sisters: Mrs. William E. Loud, Worton; Mrs. William S. Gardner, Baltimore; Mrs. E. J. Watson, Fairlee, and Mrs. William B. Usilton, Jr., Chestertown.

## Old Fire Bell Sounds Alarm Again

The old bell atop the fire house was pressed into service this morning to sound the alarm when a chimney fire occurred at the home of Arthur Capel, Maple avenue. The firemen answered the alarm but did not find it necessary to go into action.

The use of the bell was made necessary when a short-circuit on the wires to the siren caused the alarm to be sounded yesterday. The firemen, answering the call, found the fire to be blazing insulation on the wiring of their own building.

The wiring is undergoing repairs and the siren will soon be ready for service again.

## Gross Receipt Tax Is Passed By Assembly

### Held On Charge Of Shooting Man In Head With Gun

(Special To The Enterprise)  
ANNAPOLIS.—Relief legislation was finally passed last night with the adoption of the "One Per Cent Gross Receipt Tax Bill," according to Senator Arthur H. Brice of Kent county.

The bill carries a tax of one per cent on gross receipts and a one per cent manufacturers tax on all goods sold direct to the consumer. This latter clause is the only one that affects the farmers, according to Senator Brice, and applies only to farm products sold direct to the consumer.

This piece of legislation was finally favored by the county representatives in the General Assembly, Senator Brice said, because under its provisions Baltimore City, where 86 per cent of the relief funds are spent, will produce about that percentage of the tax. Under the sales tax plan, which county legislators fought, Baltimore produced about 50 per cent of the tax and consumed approximately 86 per cent.

Senator Brice also said that Governor Nice, on Saturday, had signed the bill which removes the gasoline tax from fuel used in workboats and that the new law was now in effect.

## National Negro Health Week To Be Celebrated

### Program Arranged For Kent Next Week

The annual observance of National Negro Health Week in Kent county will take place for one week beginning Sunday, March 31 and continuing through Sunday, April 7.

The program in Kent this year is sponsored by the following organizations: Kent County Health Department, Kent County Chamber of Commerce, Kent County Board of Education, Kent County Commissioners. The program for the week is as follows:

- Sunday, March 31, Mobilization Day.
- Monday, April 1, Home Health Day.
- Tuesday, April 2, Community Sanitation Day.
- Wednesday, April 3, Special Campaign Day.
- Thursday, April 4, Adult Health Day.
- Friday, April 5, School Health Day.
- Saturday, April 6, General Clean-Up Day.
- Sunday, April 7, Report and Follow-Up Day.

The Monday program will be featured by the annual parade, from 7 to 8 P. M., followed by the mass meeting, as usual, in Jones' M. E. Church, Chestertown.

Friday, School Health Day, will be marked by special devotional services in all schools from 9 to 10 A. M. in honor of Booker T. Washington, founder of National Negro Health Week.

## Dr. Grace H. Beardsley To Address College Assembly

Dr. Grace H. Beardsley, assistant professor of Classics and History at Goucher College, Baltimore, will be the speaker at the weekly assembly at Washington College on Thursday, April 4.

Holding degrees from Vassar and Johns Hopkins, Dr. Beardsley is the wife of Prof. Wilfred A. Beardsley, of the Goucher faculty. She is the author of "The Negro in Greek and Roman Civilization" and of many magazine articles in her own field. She is an enthusiastic worker in the Business and Professional Women's Club. Among her hobbies are antique jewelry, stamp-collecting and gardening.

The public, as usual, is invited to this assembly program.

## Rotarians Here Fete Five Aged Town Citizens

### Total Age Of Guests More Than 400 Years

Five Chestertown venerateds, their ages totaling more than 400 years, were the guests of the Chestertown Rotary Club Monday evening on the occasion of a special Community Service program, arranged by W. R. Huey. The guests were: William A. Wheatley, Frank Wheatley, W. T. Hicks, Thomas A. Ayres and Robert Swain. Each of the guests had passed his eightieth birthday.

D. R. McCauley, of the Chesapeake Beverage Company, a member of the Rotary Club and a newcomer to this community, spoke on the impressions of Chestertown gained by one coming here as a stranger and C. C. Jones sketched briefly some points of historical interest about the town. Special Maryland Day music was given under the direction of Conly E. Noland.

## James Stewart, 16, Charged With Crime

### NORMAN WYATT SHOT

### Youth Denies Knowledge Of Shooting

Denying his guilt, James Stewart, 16, is being held in the Kent county jail, and Norman Wyatt, 36, upper county farmer, is in a critical condition at the Eastern Hospital from a gunshot wound in his head, allegedly inflicted by Stewart.

The shooting occurred Saturday night at the Wyatt home near Massey and Stewart was arrested, charged with the shooting, soon afterwards. Since that time he has constantly denied his guilt and has sought to implicate Joe Alexander, 22, also employed on the Wyatt farm. Alexander, however, was able to establish an alibi which placed him elsewhere at the time of the shooting and is not being held by the county authorities.

Charges have not been placed against Stewart, the police officials delaying action awaiting the outcome of Wyatt's injury. Physicians at the Eastern Hospital give him scant hope of recovery. The charge from the shot gun entered the right side of his head, destroying the eye. He suffered a great loss of blood.

Sheriff John N. Bennett and his son and deputy, John N. Bennett, Jr., have been working on the case and believe that Stewart is guilty. According to their theory Stewart returned to the farm Saturday night, after he had gone to Millington with the Wyatt family, and awaited their return. After Mrs. Wyatt and her children had retired and Wyatt had settled himself beside the radio, Stewart crept up to the window and fired a shot from a shotgun through the window pane, the charge striking Wyatt on the right side of the head. He then hid the gun, which he later produced under a probe by Deputy Bennett, and started back toward Millington. Noticing the approach of Mrs. Wyatt's car, as she went for medical aid, Stewart, according to the theory of the police, turned around as if he were just returning to the farm, was stopped by Mrs. Wyatt and informed of the crime.

Mrs. Wyatt, who had retired almost immediately after returning home, heard the shot but thought that it was the noise made by her husband placing a chunk of wood on a fire. She wondered at his action, she said, because of the mild temperature, and investigating found him lying on the floor in a pool of blood. She summoned Dr. Merritt Brice, of Millington, and he ordered Wyatt taken to Eastern.

Mrs. Wyatt said that there had been some slight disagreement between her husband and Stewart when the latter was refused permission to go to Wilmington on Saturday night. Stewart, who has lived with the Wyatts for three years, was virtually an adopted son although no legal steps had been taken in that direction.

## Mrs. Mary V. Jones Buried At Shrewsbury Cemetery

Mrs. Mary V. Jones, age 53, died at her home in Norwood, Pa., Wednesday, March 13, after a short illness of pneumonia. Funeral services were held from H. B. Griffith Funeral Parlor with interment in Shrewsbury Parish, Saturday, at 2 P. M. She is survived by her husband, John T. Jones, formerly of Still Pond.

## BRIEF DIGEST OF WEEK'S NEWS

A synopsis of events chronicled in full elsewhere in today's Enterprise

DEATHS

- J. Hyde Thompson, 60, dies at home here after short illness.
- Mrs. Catherine J. Gale, 81, buried at Old St. Paul's.
- Mrs. William L. Gibson, 47, died suddenly in Baltimore.

AGRICULTURAL

- Corn-Hog Association reorganizes with new officers.
- Interest in lespedezas keen this spring.

POLITICAL

- One per cent tax on gross receipts passed by Assembly for relief.

GENERAL

- Negro Health Week to be observed here next week.
- James Stewart, 16, held on charge of shooting Norman Wyatt, 36.
- Prison terms given Kent men who assaulted Federal officers.
- Rotary Club fete five aged men of Chestertown.
- Dr. Grace Beardsley will address College assembly.