

We Have Forgotten God, Bishop Darst Declares In Sermon

Beloved Churchman Heard by Large Congregation Here Sunday

The Rt. Rev. Thomas C. Darst, Bishop of the Diocese of East Carolina, made his annual visit to Martin County last week-end. As usual Bishop Darst brought a message that stirred the hearts of all who heard him.

On Friday night at the Parish supper in the Women's Club, the Bishop challenged the hundred people there, with the plans of the national church. He told of the ten-year program by the preceding bishop and how each person in the Episcopal Church had a great part to play in its success. "We can only bring the world out of chaos by letting God take away our selfishness, greed, hatred and sin," said the bishop.

On Sunday morning Bishop Darst preached a stirring sermon challenging the large congregation who heard him to re-dedicate themselves to God's purpose for the world. The situation of the world today is caused, not by dictator or political schemes, but because we who call ourselves Christians have forgotten God. Christ is calling to his church to be penitent, to get down on its knees and hear his voice. The only agency in the world today that can give us strength to overcome the hate, fear, suffering, softness—the sin in our world in the church of the living God. The Bishop built his sermon around the spirit shown by the little group of men who, at the risk of their lives removed the time bomb that threatened the destruction of St. Paul's Cathedral, in London. They endangered their lives for a symbol.

"The church today stands as a bulwark against the incursions of disease of fear. It remains as a symbol of an unquenchable faith in God, a symbol of a free nation and a free people."

Sunday night the Bishop preached at St. Martin's, Hamilton, and confirmed one person.

Bishop Darst based his sermon today on the following taken from a sermon by Rev. Fairfield Butt, West Point:

In London for the first time in many years there were no Sunday services at St. Paul's Cathedral. But all London was praying for St. Paul's. Within the shadows of Wren's gray, old dome a squad of tight-lipped men worked to remove a huge time bomb dropped by the Germans and buried 27 feet in the ground. Toward vesper they got it out, lashed it onto two tandem trucks and hauled it away through cleared streets. Exploding harmlessly in the Hackney marshes, it blew out a crater 100 feet across.

Lt. R. Davies, a Canadian engineer, (Continued on page four)

Christmas Cheer Fund Totals \$98.50

Late contributions have boosted the Christmas Cheer fund here to \$98.50, the sponsors of the movement stating that the amount is far from adequate in meeting the needs even in a very limited way. Other contributions are earnestly solicited, and an immediate response is urged. Packages and boxes for the needy will be prepared the latter part of this week, and it will aid the work if the contributions are made by that time.

Contributions not previously acknowledged, follow:	
Senior Woman's Club	\$10.00
Harrison Oil Company	5.00
Mrs. G. H. Harrison	1.00
Belk-Tyler Co.	2.00
Moore Grocery Co.	2.00
Charlie James	1.00
J. L. Hassell	2.00
A Friend	5.00
W. J. Hodges	2.00
American Legion	5.00
N. Israel	1.00
Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Griffin	2.00
Fowden & Simpson	1.00
Building and Loan Ass'n	5.00
Mrs. Vernon Bunting	1.00
Previously Reported	50.50
TOTAL	\$98.50

Little Child Died Here Early Today

William Gray Clayton, six-week-old, died at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. V. Clayton, on Warren Street at 1 o'clock this morning following an attack of pneumonia. Taken ill about three weeks ago, the infant successfully withstood an attack of pneumonia and ten days ago he was much improved. Left in a weakened condition he suffered a relapse yesterday, death following just a few hours later.

Besides his parents he is survived by three brothers, Darrel, Bobby and Joseph. Funeral services are being conducted at the home here this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by Rev. B. T. Hurley, Methodist minister. Interment will follow in a Plymouth cemetery.

Decorations Are Placed in the Residential Areas This Week

Decorations that have added so much to the holiday spirit here in years past and which will, no doubt, be advanced on a larger scale this Christmas season, are beginning to dot the doorways and yards of local homes, and by the latter part of the week cheery lights will burn in numbers of yards, doorways, on public buildings and in quite a few rural homes in this community where darkness has yielded to the touch of scientific man.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. James have already made a strong bid for a first prize in the home decoration plan, Charlie, working under well-planned instructions, did a good job of it, too.

Ricks Allsbrooks, local officer, doing his best job at decorating the old town clock tower, has given the cheery lights something to shoot at and Sheriff C. B. Roebuck is rounding up his artistic group, headed by ABC Officer Joe Roebuck, and making ready to enliven the county's old hall of justice. Bob Manning and Millard Lilley changed their decorative scheme on top of the water tower where the inviting lights spread their cheery glow to thousands of persons miles away.

Calling in an individual artist, P. P. Peel is making a bid for recognition in the store interior group. Adding a patriotic touch to his decoration plans, the merchant out on Washington Street has a very attractive store with a large stock of Christmas goods to match the decorations.

Possibly local people are starting their decoration work a bit late this year, but by the end of the week and in ample time for the judges' visit next Monday night thousands of cheery lights will burn in their appointed places here on trees, doorways and housetops.

Farmers Have Stored 850,000 Bags Peanuts

CANTATA

A sacred cantata, "Prince of Peace," will be given by twenty-one members of the choral club at the Baptist Church, Friday night, at eight o'clock. There will be no admission fee and the public is invited.

Threatens Life Of Farmer, Man Loses His Freedom Here

Bob Small Tried, Sentenced, Paroled and Rearrested, All in One Week

It was a week of lightning events for Robert Small, colored man, who went into the superior court here Monday, December 9, for the theft of tobacco from Farmer J. Robert Everett in Poplar Point. Found guilty, Small was sentenced to the roads for a period of eighteen months. The sentence was suspended upon certain conditions which called for the payment of the case cost and one hundred dollars to Farmer Everett for the stolen tobacco. He was then placed on probation, Parole Officer Kenney appearing in court that morning to help the boys out and sentence was pronounced by the judge.

While some thought the alleged tobacco thieves got off light, no direct criticism of the judgment was heard, and the case was fading from the public eye when Small perhaps in an indirect way threatened the life of Farmer Everett.

"You know when I ran away when the officers started arresting the others in the tobacco stealing case, why I saved your life that week," Small was quoted as saying to Farmer Everett after he had commanded him into a corner for a secret conversation. Continuing, Small said, "Now, they have a \$100 debt on the court records against me, and you can get it off." Pulling some old roots and herbs from his pocket, Small attempted conjuration. "If you don't get that \$100 off, you are going to die within a certain time," Small warned the farmer in a haughty manner.

A bit angered by the threat, Mr. Everett reported the incident to officers who arrested Small. Probation Officer Kenney, learning of the threat, invoked the sentence, and Small, after being tried, sentenced, and placed on probation, started serving the eighteen months' road term within a week.

Farmer Everett will lose his \$100, the value of the tobacco stolen by Small. Arrested last Saturday, Small started serving his sentence on the roads this morning.

BASEBALL?

Whether Williamston will have baseball next season or not will possibly be decided at a meeting to be held in R. H. Goodmon's office here tonight at 8 o'clock. L. T. Fowden and several other fans are calling the meeting, and everyone interested in the sport is invited and urged to attend. "If you are not able to support the club financially, come out and lend your moral support," Mr. Fowden said, adding that the coming summer would offer some long days and nights without the games. Mr. Eason Lilley, club owner, has stated that he wanted someone else to run the club next season.

Christmas Pageant Well Received By 1,000 People Here

"The Nativity" Impressively Presented by High School Pupils

Attracting one of the largest crowds ever seen in the local high school building, the Christmas pageant, "The Nativity," was impressively presented by eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh grade pupils and a few from the lower grades in the high school auditorium last Sunday evening. Filling every one of the 734 seats, the crowd overflowed the aisles and halls, one estimate placing the number of spectators at a thousand. Quite a few turned back when they found no room.

Staged under the direction of Miss Kathryn Mewborn, the pageant was regarded as the most impressive ever seen here, and it was well received by the record-size audience. Favorable comments were general among those who came from all over the school district, and many coming from neighboring communities were greatly impressed by the general theme and by the able and sincere acting. While the entire performance commanded a strict silence, the three boys, Zack Piephoff, Bobby Harrison and Bruce Powell Rogerson, highlighted the program with their parts.

Two unfortunate events, caused by excessive heat and the apparent emotional and physical strain, did not mar the program as the cast executed each part with precision and without the slightest interruption. Suffering fainting spells, Carlton Phelps and Jasper Browder were quietly removed from the stage and the play went on, the two youths quickly recovering as soon as they reached fresh air.

The cast, supported by members of the glee clubs and the seventh and eighth grade chorus, included, Jim Critcher, Crucifer; Warren Pope, reader; Evelyn Wynne, Mary; Melburn Hardison, Joseph; Jack Bailey, Billy Mercer and Benny Weaver, shepherds; Zack Piephoff, Bobby Harrison and Bruce Powell Rogerson, children; Elizabeth Parker, Lenora Melson, Mary Trulsh Peale, Mildred Thomas, Marjorie Grey Dunn and Frances Jarman, angels; Bill Peel, Luther Peel and Jasper Browder, three kings; Parker Peel, John Whitley and Jack Mobley, attendants. The instrumental quintet was composed of Billy Mercer, Courtney Jenkins, Anne Lindsley, Billy Peel and J. B. Taylor.

Miss Mewborn was assisted by the following: stage, Mr. Barrett, Mrs. Hassell, Mr. Hix, Charles Coltraine; programs, Misses Whitley, Fowler, Everett, Sylvia Green and Mary Hadley; costumes, Miss Glazener; brass quintet, Mr. Butler; pianists, Miss Grace Talton and Mrs. M. B. Dunn; and violinist, Irving Gurganus.

Legality Of Liquor Store Is Uncertain

The legality of Jamesville's Alcoholic Beverages Control store is now uncertain, according to unofficial information received here this morning from a reliable source. Alcoholic Beverages Control Board officials could not be reached immediately for a statement, but according to one source of information the legislative act providing for the establishment of the stores requires certain police protection.

Jamesville is said to be without law enforcement officers at the present time, and it is believed that the operation of the store under such conditions is illegal. How the situation will affect the burglar insurance on the store is not known.

Tuted ineligible on account of non-residence, Joe H. Hardison, recently elected constable of Jamesville Township, did not take over the duties formerly handled by Paul Holiday. Clarence Sexton, appointed constable by the Martin County Board of Commissioners in session here December 2, has not formally accepted the post offered him.

GREEK FUND

Americans have been warmly applauding the heroic Greeks in their fight against slavery and barbarism, but the movement to raise funds for the suffering Greek civilians is advancing slowly in this section. There have been several cases where Italians in this country have made sizable contributions to aid the Greeks, one report stating that Fredericksburg had a goal of \$1,500, that after \$1,200 had been raised, the Italians boosted the figure to \$1,500.

Two contributions have been reported here, but it is understood that other donations have been made to the Greek Relief Fund direct. The Woman's Club is contributing \$5 and The Enterprise is donating a similar amount. Other donations will be received by The Enterprise and forwarded immediately to headquarters, Greek War Relief Association, Incorporated, 217th Avenue, New York.

In keeping with the national rearmament program, he had painted, and now has on display in his two show windows, two large drawings of the army and navy in action. Assisting Mr. Peel in planning his elaborate decorations were Joe Johnson and J. Carroll Jones.

Personal Property To Be Listed In January

Commissioners To Name 2 Additional Property Assessors

Supervisor and Commissioner In Chapel Hill For Discussion of Tax Problems

Determined to iron out existing inequalities as far as it is humanly possible to do so and to possibly lift the county's total assessed property value to fifty per cent of their true worth, Martin officials are spending much time and giving study to the revaluation work to get underway next month.

Attending a school for tax authorities in Chapel Hill last week, Tax Supervisor S. H. Grimes and Commissioner C. D. Carstarphen gained a pretty good idea of the plans followed in reevaluating property in many of the other 99 counties in the State. Certain legal points were discussed, and it is likely that the Martin Commissioners will effect some changes in the present plans for handling the property revaluation when they meet with list-takers and assessors in a special meeting here next Monday.

Proposed plans will eliminate the list-taker as an assessor in at least two townships and possibly in one or two more. Following the Chapel Hill meeting, Tax Supervisor Grimes and Commissioner Carstarphen stated that they were convinced that the listing of personal property should not be delayed until the real values had been determined. According to present plans, the list-takers will serve as assessors, handle the revaluation of real estate and other real properties and then take their regular posts to handle the personal property listings. This, it was pointed out, will delay the listing of personal properties in some townships until the middle or late February.

To avoid possible delay, the commissioners, at their special meeting next Monday, will consider the appointment of an additional assessor for Williamston and Robersonville Townships and possibly for one or two other districts, leaving the regular list-takers free to handle the personal property listings. In the smaller townships, it was pointed out, the assessors including the list-taker, can effect the revaluation of real properties within a week or two, leaving the list-taker ample time to complete the personal property listings before the end of January.

According to the tax supervisor and county officials, the property revaluation next month will be advanced on an extensive scale. Every piece of real estate will be visited and assessed on the ground. In addition to that, personal property schedules will be based on sample tests which the authorities will handle themselves or call in specialists to set up values.

"We are not trying to cause a hardship on any one. We are trying to iron out inequalities and give the owners and the county a fair and just property valuation," Commissioner Carstarphen said, following his return from the special school held in Chapel Hill last week.

Escapes Serious Injury In Wreck

Cecil Bullock, young white man, was painfully but not seriously injured on his hip last Saturday night about 11 o'clock when the car he was driving went out of control and turned over on the Robersonville-Gold Point Road, near Robersonville. The car was said to have turned over five times, Bullock stating that he was in the seat on the first turn and in the foot on the second and third turns. He lost count then.

Striking a muddy place on the road, the car, belonging to Tom Bunting, skidded on the long curve, and turned over and over on the road and shoulder.

The car, stored in a garage lot here yesterday, had its top smashed and its doors nearly ripped off. The engine would still run, however. Damage to the machine, a Ford sedan, was estimated at \$450.

Movement Started For A Two-Day Holiday Here

A movement for a double holiday—December 25 and 26—has been started here, but according to one report some opposition has been directed against the two-day holiday schedule for Christmas. Governor Clyde R. Hoey has proclaimed a holiday for all State banks, and it is likely that some public offices as well as the banks will observe December 26 as a holiday as well as Christmas day, irrespective of the action taken by the merchants.

Quite a few towns in this section, including Plymouth and Ashokie, have announced a double-holiday schedule for its business houses next week.

Two Colored Youth Offering To Pay To Get Into The Army

Thirty Men Have Volunteered Their Services In This County So Far

A patriotic fever is apparently sweeping over colored young men in this county, a report coming from the draft board today stating that two colored boys had offered to pay \$5 cash to get into the army immediately. It could not be learned whether the law was closing in on the boys or an illicit love affair had gotten them in bad, both of them declaring that they were tired of farming and would like to try soldiering for a while. So far, sixteen colored youths have volunteered their services, most of them holding fairly large order numbers. A few are outside the draft age group.

The number of white volunteers was boosted to fourteen yesterday when Marvin Roberson notified the draft board he was ready for service. The young man, now employed by the Virginia electric and Power Company, will possibly move out with the next contingent possibly in January or February. With two or three exceptions, most of the white volunteers hold high order numbers.

Yesterday was a big day for the draft board office. Seven volunteers were received. Apparently giving the economic situation minute discussion over the week-end, and not anticipating immediate warfare, colored youths reported half a dozen strong yesterday for voluntary service.

The board last Friday classified an additional 131 men, boosting the classification count to 400. A marked drop was reported in the Number 1 group, according to unofficial information. An official classification will be released shortly on the recent classification.

Just now the Draft Board is confining its work to routine activities. No additional questionnaires are being mailed, and after today no physical examinations will be given until after Christmas week. Thirty-one men have been examined to date, the examining physician, Dr. J. S. Rhodes, examining the first draftees outside the volunteer group today. No official report on the examinations has been filed with the draft board, but it is understood that three of the thirty-one have been ruled unfit for military service on account of physical disabilities.

According to preliminary reports reaching here today, Martin County will likely be called upon to furnish sixteen men to the Army the latter part of next month or in early February. "We have received no official quota," Mr. R. H. Goodmon, chairman of the Martin County Draft Board, said this morning.

Official Touch Is Added To Election

An official touch to the last presidential election was added yesterday when the thirteen electors in this State met in Raleigh and 518 other electors met in their respective state capitals to record the wishes of the voters.

The constitution provided for the election of electors who, in turn, elect the president. Up until a few years ago, the names of presidential and vice presidential candidates did not appear on the common ballot. The names of electors appeared there and if the Democratic electors received a majority they, in turn, voted for the Democratic nominee. In the last election the names of the nominees appeared on the ballot, but to make the election legal, the electors had to cast their vote in Raleigh yesterday. The vote is now being sent to Congress where it will be counted in the House of Representatives and the results, known a few hours after the election on November 5th, will be officially announced.

Attorney Peel was named elector for the First Congressional District last June at the State Democratic Convention in Raleigh. Mr. Peel is one of the few if not the only one to serve as presidential elector from this county.

It's A Big World For N. S. Nichols

N. S. Nichols, Williams Township colored man who started serving a three-to-four-year sentence in State's prison last week for highway robbery, declared while on his trip to Raleigh that this is a big world. Nichols is said to have never been anywhere except in Williams Township and in Williamston, and when he commented on the crooked roads and the difference in the land compared with the swamps and lowlands of Williams Township, Sheriff Roebuck stopped the car. "Nichols," the officer asked, "which would you like to do, get out and find your way back home by yourself or continue to prison?" "Boss, take me on to prison, for I'd never find my way back from this distance."

But when the sheriff suggested that there were several hundred acres of cotton yet to be picked, Nichols looked longingly at the woods.

ELECTOR



Eibert S. Peel, local attorney, cast his vote for Franklin D. Roosevelt in the presidential electoral college at Raleigh yesterday. Don't be alarmed, the vote cast was for the same man the people voted for last month. The Electoral College is just the out-moded method of electing a president under the constitution.

British And Greeks Continue To Carry War To The Italians

New Problems Confront Hitler in France, Italy and Africa

A blitzkrieg offensive started by the British forces against the Italians in Africa a week ago is continuing to move forward in high gear, and the Greeks are continuing their successes against Mussolini's men in Albania. British forces are now well within Italian Libya, and the Greeks are nearing Valona, one of the three remaining Albanian ports in Italian hands. Forced to fight at the end of guns held in their own officers' hands the Italians are hard-pressed in both areas, and rumors of a truce are still being heard unofficially.

While the war in Africa and Albania continue to hold the spotlight, far-reaching developments are believed to be transpiring in France and Italy. The Vichy government has been shaken up, and the changes, especially the removal of Foreign Minister Laval, are causing worry for Hitler in France. Laval was removed shortly after Hitler demanded passage for his troops across France apparently for a Mediterranean port and subsequent disembarkation for Africa to help relieve the Italians of their bad plight there. It has been suggested that alterations in the armistice terms with France will follow.

Mussolini's weakness is raising some concern for Germany. While Hitler is apparently unconcerned over Mussolini and the plight of the Italians, he is apparently making plans to take over that country and subject it to treatment similar to that accorded other nations trampled under the Nazi heel.

To counteract his losses in Albania and Egypt, Mussolini today directed a serious threat against Britain. He claims 100 Italian submarines are about ready to go into action against British shipping. It is a known fact that Italy has that many and possibly more submarines.

According to Air Minister Beaverbrook, another invasion attempt by Germany is expected in early spring by sea and air, but principally by air.

That England's finances are being taxed is evidenced by a direct call for aid from the United States, one report stating that no additional war supplies can be bought by England unless financial arrangements can be effected.

CALAMITY

While others may have their cares and woes, Rowena Riddick, colored woman, is believed to have experienced the greatest calamity of the holiday shopping season here yesterday morning. Carrying \$210 cash in a colored cloth bag she lost it between the Roanoke-Dixie Warehouse and the Williamston Hardware Company building on Washington Street.

The woman needs the money badly, and if the finder would make someone happy this Christmas season he could find no better opportunity than returning the money to the owner and receiving a liberal reward.