

## 'Blitzkrieg Party' Is Held At Expense Of Illicit Liquor Trade

### Officers, Aided By Airplane Pilot, Wreck Five Plants In County Friday

Working after a blitzkrieg pattern, officers successfully invaded Bear Grass and the Free Union section of Jamesville Township last Friday, the twelve county and Federal agents holding an all-day party at the expense of the illicit liquor industry. It was the second air raid reported by the illicit manufacturers in this county. No one was hurt and very little damage resulted, but the manufacturers' schedule of operations was greatly interrupted. One report states that the "bottleneck" in the industry virtually brought the retail business to a standstill in Williamston's bootleg centers.

Six liquor plants were wrecked and 2,850 gallons of beer were destroyed, but no copper was taken in the raids.

Meeting four Federal officers and an airplane pilot in Washington that morning, J. H. Roebuck, Martin County's ABC officer, accompanied by Deputy Roy Peel, mapped out the raids for the day. Officers Smithwick and Willis, of Beaufort County, and ABC Officers Ward, Harris and McMullan, of Pitt County, joined the party there. The first spearhead was driven into Bear Grass Township where the officers wrecked a partial plant and poured out 300 gallons of beer. The manufacturing business is apparently dull or it is well hidden there because no other plants were detected by the pilot during a three-hour search.

The pilot had dinner in Rocky Mount and the ground forces dined here. That afternoon at 2:30 a spearhead was driven into the Free Union section of Jamesville Township. Spotting one still right after another, the pilot, using a special communication set, almost exhausted the ground crew. Five plants were wrecked in less than two hours, the officers pouring out more than 2,500 gallons of beer.

None of the plants was in operation, but several of them were about ready for use. No dates for a return blitzkrieg have been fixed, but the forces can be expected most any time. Officer Roebuck said today. After the smoke of the blitzkrieg had cleared, Officer Roebuck accompanied by the sheriff, Roy Peel, Carl Wynne and Claiborne Summerlin returned to the Bear Grass section and wrecked a small steam plant and poured out 400 gallons of beer about 9 o'clock that night.

Saturday night the officers raided Williamston's illicit liquor retail centers but failed to find the first teaspoonful in a thorough search of four houses. The retailers had their supply cut off the day before in Free Union or they had had a rushing business that day and sold out before the raids were made.

## Hurt In Fall From Truck On Highway

William Crew, local colored man, was dangerously hurt in a fall from a truck on Highway No. 17, near Skewarkey, early last Saturday night. The man's left ankle was broken and his right one was badly sprained. Picked up by Officer J. H. Allsbrooks and Constable Charles Moore, Crew was given first aid treatment here and later removed to a Washington hospital where he is getting along very well.

Crew was helping Daniel Ryan move a family from the Bear Grass section and was riding on top of the furniture. On their way home they stopped a short while allegedly for a package of cigarettes. Crew, according to his own story, stated that he was "nipping" rather freely, that he dropped off to sleep and fell off with part of the furniture. Ryan did not miss him until the trip to town was completed. When found, Crew was lying partly on the highway, and at first it was thought some one had run over his legs with an automobile. Patrolman Whit Saunders, investigating the accident, stated that the man was hurt in the fall.

Crew hardly remembered the accident, and did not know where he was until Sunday morning when someone told him he was in the hospital.

Ryan, driver of the truck, was taken into custody temporarily, but was released following the investigation.

## Man Painfully Hurt On Highway Project

John H. White, employed on the Roanoke River bridge project by an Elizabeth City construction company, suffered a serious hand injury last Friday afternoon while working on or near a pile driver. Given first-aid treatment in a doctor's office here, Mr. White was removed to a Washington hospital. It could not be definitely learned here, but one report stated that two or three fingers on his left hand were virtually mashed off, and that possibly he would lose all of his fingers on that hand.

## Labor Shortage of Temporary Nature in Agricultural Areas

The anticipated labor shortage is fast being reflected on farms and common labor projects following the call for thousands of workers to defense centers in this and other states. However, the threat of a labor shortage on farms is believed to be of a temporary nature, and unless the government plans to double its defense program there'll be a surplus of farm labor available some time during the coming summer or early fall.

The call for workers is being answered by thousands each week, and while employment has hardly reached a peak there are reports stating that some of the defense centers are already more than half completed. The skilled worker will likely continue in demand as the defense program gains momentum, but the common laborer is rapidly completing his work and when the rough construction plans are rounded out he will have to turn back and seek his livelihood at home.

## Marketing Quotas For Peanuts Are Proposed

### RECORD

For the first time in its history the Martin County Building and Loan Association this week became a half million dollar institution. As of January 31, 1941, the assets of the association reached a total of \$505,812.83.

For the past several years the association has shown a phenomenal growth. Organized in 1914 the organization has been both directly and indirectly responsible for the building of most of the residential property in Williamston.

## Files Final Report On Blood Tests for Trainees In County

### Legal Requirement in Connection with Treatments Cited by Health Officer

By DR. JOHN W. WILLIAMS, Martin County Health Officer. Of the two thousand blood tests made on the draftees, 922 of whom were white, one and a half per cent of the whites were positive and 13.9 per cent of the Negroes were positive. Three and a half per cent of both Negroes and white tests were unsatisfactory and were notified to have another test made. One per cent of the whites and 3.3 per cent of the colored were doubtful and another test had to be made.

This work is now over as far as the blood tests are concerned. Now the problem is to get the wives and children of the 161 new cases of syphilis we have found examined and all treated.

Martin County has adequate clinic facilities to treat these new found cases and those now attending our clinic but our patients will have to learn that the secret of successful treatment is the regularity of the treatments. Very little is accomplished with irregular attendance to clinics. It generally takes thirty intravenous injections of the arsenamines and forty intramuscular injections of the bismuth to produce a cure. This requires seventy weeks or one year and four months.

The physicians in charge of our clinics know just about as much about the disease as any other physicians. They have the best drugs money can buy and the best equipment to work with. They know that some few have a hard time trying to carry out standards set for the majority, therefore they are on the alert for any untoward symptoms caused by treatment so that no damage will be done and they try their best to impress the patients that they should attend regularly.

There are legal requirements regarding treatments which were placed on the patient for public protection as well as for the patient's benefit to see that he or she takes the treatments regularly. One of these is in the hands of the sheriff after the health department has given warning. The other step is immediate quarantine by the health department.

Heretofore, we have used the sheriff's department and it does not seem

## Loses Part Of Little Finger In Truck Door

Lloyd Gray "Mickey" Roberson, four-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Will Roberson, of near Hamilton, lost a part of his left little finger in a truck door last Saturday. The youngster was playing with two or three of his brothers and sisters in the truck when one of them accidentally closed the door on his finger. He is being treated in a local doctor's office.

Truck farmers, including potato and strawberry growers, are facing what some describe as an acute labor shortage, and it is apparent that 16,000 strawberry pickers and 10,000 potato diggers will have to be imported from somewhere. Possibly tobacco harvesting time will find no surplus labor available, but peanut-digging time will likely find hungry men looking for work. It is all a guess, and it might be the whole country'll be working for one Adolf Hitler ere peanut-digging time rolls around.

It is a great time this winter for labor. Thousands of farm hands have exchanged a grubbin' hoe and plow for a saw and square and have gone off to Holly Ridge, Fort Bragg and other defense centers. It has been a boon to some rural areas, the big pay making possible purchases of food, clothing, shoes and school books.

## Growers In Eastern Part Of State Want Minor Amendments

### Group Asks That Hearings Be Held Later in the Month

The lowly peanut, its fate uncertain in years gone by, is now in Washington seeking recognition at the hands of Congress. Briefly stated, a movement would place peanut production under control along with other basic crops such as tobacco and cotton, establish marketing quotas and provide for a referendum.

Hearings have already been scheduled, but there is an apparent opposition to all the provisions of the bill and a request has been made for continuing or re-opening the hearings before the House Agricultural Committee later in the month.

Sponsored by Representative Pace of Georgia, the bill provides that the Secretary of Agriculture shall proclaim a national marketing quota for the 1941 calendar year and call for a referendum within 30 days after its passage. Thereafter, referenda shall be conducted not later than December 15 each year to determine if the growers favor marketing quotas for the next three years.

One section of the measure provides that if growers should fail to approve quotas by a two-thirds majority, so peanut loans or peanut-diversion programs would be made available to them. Such aids will be available, however, in those years when quotas are in effect.

In its preamble the bill declares that the proposed program is "imperative," because peanut growers are "unable to regulate effectively the orderly marketing of the commodity." It adds that "fluctuation of prices and marketings of peanuts creates an unstable and chaotic condition in the marketing of peanuts for cleaning and shelling and for crushing for oil in the channels of interstate and foreign commerce."

Quotas shall be based on the average quantity of nuts harvested in the five preceding years. The quota for the 1941 calendar year shall be sufficient to provide for a national acreage allotment of not less than

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## Reports On Anti-Paralysis Drive

Martin County people offered a liberal support to the anti-paralysis movement last week when they raised \$150.58, according to a virtually complete report filed yesterday by Dr. E. T. Walker, chairman of the committee in this county.

The support was general, nearly every community in the county participating. Two districts, Farm Life and Gold Point, had not reported the results of the drive late yesterday. Proceeds from the "March of Dimes" were reported as follows: Williamston Junior Woman's Club, \$36.78; Williamston schools and collections, \$24.45; Robersonville, \$24.25; Jamesville, \$8.90; Everetts, \$1.36; Oak City, \$10; Hassell, \$3.30; Bear Grass, \$4.33—a total of \$118.87. The sale of dance tickets amount to \$131 including the sale of \$9 dance tickets in Robersonville. Dance expenses were \$99.29, leaving a balance of \$31.71, which added to the proceeds from the March of Dimes made a total of \$150.58.

The amount was the largest ever raised in the county in any one year, and the drive was described as very successful by Chairman Walker who publicly expresses his appreciation to those who aided him in the drive and to those who so generously supported the worthy movement.

## Town Authorities In Brief Session Here Last Night

### Street Improvement Program Still in the Air; Look To Open Market

In a brief and uneventful session here last night, the local town commissioners discussed a varied subject matter but did not take final action except in one or two cases.

A bond issue, approved by the voters in 1938 for financing a street improvement program and extensions to water and sewer lines, is still in the air, it was pointed out at the meeting. Certain changes were ordered in the bond issue dates to bring it up to date, and Congressman Herbert Bonner, on a short visit here last Saturday, was asked to visit the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and determine the status of the town's loan application there. It is possible that the town will turn to the open market and offer its bonds for sale if the Reconstruction Finance Corporation takes no favorable action on the loan application within the next few days.

County Superintendent J. C. Manning and Principal D. N. Hix of the local schools appeared before the board and asked that public traffic be diverted around the grammar school grounds. Mayor J. L. Hassell named a committee of two, Messrs. Luther Peel and V. D. Godwin, to consider plans for improving streets and routing traffic around the grounds. The committee is meeting the school authorities today.

The town is considering selling the Boyce Clary property on Watts and Hutton Streets, title to the property having been acquired by tax deed. Improvements will be made to South Smithwick Street, but no attempt to widen the thoroughfare.

The flagrant violation of the Sunday blue laws was discussed briefly, the commissioners instructing the Mayor to investigate pressing club activities on Sunday and report to the board.

## Last Rites Are Held For Mrs. Gurganus

Last rites were held in the Church of the Advent here last Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock for Mrs. Bettie Gurganus who died following a brief illness at her home on Church Street last Friday morning. Rev. John Hardy, Episcopal minister and rector of the church, officiated. Interment was in the local cemetery.

The service was largely attended. Those from out of town were, Mrs. Florence Leary, Mr. and William Irwin, Mrs. R. D. Lawrence and Mr. and Mrs. N. S. Mobley, all of Portsmouth; Mr. and Mrs. William Mobley, of Richmond; Mr. Garland Leary, of Newport News; Mrs. Robert Waldie, Mrs. Lucille Gurganus, Mr. and Mrs. Durward Gurganus and Messrs. Maynard and Sam Mobley, all of Norfolk; Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Mobley, of Raleigh; Mr. Sidney Lee Mobley, of Columbia, S. C.; Mrs. Elizabeth Herrington, of Dayton, Ohio; Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Blount, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Blount, Mrs. Dan Davis and Mr. Emmett Blount, all of Plymouth; Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Blount, Mr. Milton Clagon and Mrs. Sallie Chesson, of Roper; Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Godwin and Mr. and Mrs. George Williams, of Farmville; Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Tadlock, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Tadlock, Mrs. Annie Smallwood, Mr. and Mrs. Whit Tankerton, Mr. David VanNortwick and Mrs. Bessie VanNortwick, of Woodard, N. C.

## Hearing Scheduled In Knife Attack Saturday

Alton Lilley and Joe Lanier Godard, Sr., charged with knife attacks upon Carlton Reason and Nathan Cole, will be given a preliminary hearing before Justice J. L. Hassell here next Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Sheriff C. B. Roebuck announced yesterday. The date for the hearing was fixed subject to the outcome of Reason's condition.

Reports from his home in the Dardens community state that Reason, seriously cut by Lilley on last Saturday a week ago, is improving rapidly now, that he is able to sit up some. Lilley and Godard continue in the county jail. Minnie Owens and Bertha Morgan, witnesses in the case, are also being held in the jail.

## EMPLOYER-CHAUFFEUR

From down in Onslow County comes a unique story claiming a one-time employer is now chauffeuring his former employees around. Russian nobility once, Czarism was "revoluted" out, waited on their former subjects in Paris cafes, and this defense revolution in this country is introducing similar customs here. The employer, the story goes, opened an oyster-canning plant. His twenty-five workers quit and went to Holly Ridge. The owner closed down his plant, got a job for himself at Holly Ridge and now he is chauffeuring his former employees to and from the Ridge.

## No Time Extension For Listing Personal Property Allowed By Board; Penalties To Be Fixed

### Dug Out of Bombed Home



Bombed out of her home by German raiders who blasted at Sheffield, England, this young mother smiles happily as she hugs her baby, begrimed but unhurt after being dug out of the ruins.

## First 1941 Road Death Reported in the County

## Six-Year-Old Child Is Fatally Hurt On The Hamilton Road

### Funeral Services at Home This Afternoon for Little Marjorie Lassiter

Struck by an automobile near her home on the Hamilton-Highway last Friday afternoon shortly after two o'clock, Marjorie Lassiter, six years old, died in a Washington hospital Sunday evening at 8:15 o'clock, her death being the first on a Martin County highway in the new year. Her body badly broken and bruised, the little girl never regained consciousness. The little tot, just turned six years old the 30th of last December, suffered fractures of both legs, a fractured pelvis, a broken shoulder and a fracture on the back of her head. Only one cut, a small abrasion on her temple, was visible.

Starting to visit a neighbor on the Joe Cherry farm just across the road with her four-year-old brother, the little girl waited beside the road for a car to pass. Watching the first car move on away, she started across the road without looking to the right. Dr. R. G. McAllister, local physician and driver of the car figuring in the accident, stated that he sounded his horn, that the child stopped as if she planned to turn back and then darted into the path of his car. Her little brother, William Earl, did not continue across the road and was not hurt. Traveling about 35 or 40 miles an hour, the car struck the child and knocked her 20 or 25 feet, the little bit of humanity all broken and bruised, landing on the shoulder of the highway. She never knew what happened, so sudden was the death-dealing blow struck.

Picked up by Dr. McAllister and Mr. Perlie Moore, the child was brought here for first-aid treatment and later moved to a Washington hospital.

## Former Resident Dies In Florida

Funeral services for Mrs. Fannie Lamb Hyman, a former resident of Williamston and later of Hamilton, were held in Scotland Neck last Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock in Trinity Episcopal Church. Mrs. Hyman, 80 years old, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Howell Fry, of Jacksonville, Fla., last Wednesday following a long period of declining health.

A native of Elizabeth City, Mrs. Hyman moved here with her parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Wilson G. Lamb. She spent her early life in Williamston, marrying Herbert S. Hyman and moving to Hamilton to make her home for a number of years. She lived several years in Lincolnton and made her home with her son, John Hyman, in Richmond, and Hamlet until his death about a year ago. Since that time she had lived with her daughter in Florida.

She was a sister of the late Colonel Wilson G. Lamb, of Williamston, and often visited here until her health began to fail about five years ago. Besides her daughter she leaves one sister, Mrs. W. B. Morton, of Washington, N. C., and several grandchildren.

## Deny Petitions For Increased Salaries For Court Officials

### Several Old-Timers Appeal To Board For Increases In Pensions

Warning all property owners to list their earthly belongings and polls, the Martin County commissioners in regular session yesterday instructed the tax supervisor to advise the several list-takers to keep a complete record of the late listers with the promise that penalties, provided by law, will be invoked in due course of time. It is fairly certain that at least a \$1 penalty will be added to those accounts placed on the books after February 1, and it is possible that the penalty will be upped to 10 per cent of the listings. Those who do not list at all will be made subject to the penalties and prosecution in the courts. It is apparent that the commissioners mean business, and delinquent listers can well make ready to accept the consequences.

No accurate estimates for the county are available just at this time, but in Williamston Township there are approximately 225 persons—100 white and 125 colored—who have not listed their personal holdings or polls. List-taker H. M. Burras states that 99 per cent of the property is on the books, that 75 per cent of those who have not yet listed are subject to poll tax only.

The real estate assessors have virtually completed their work except in Robersonville and Williamston. The Williamston board plans to complete its survey the latter part of next week, and the Robersonville group will possibly complete the work the latter part of this week or early next week. Both boards are now appraising town properties. The Williamston board is almost through with the survey on the south side of Main Street with the exception of the business district.

The commissioners ordered that the \$2,092.06 State school funds canceled by the State be transferred to the debt service fund for schools in the county. This amount was due the State as a result of a 17-cent tax levied in the county about nine years ago, and represents uncollected accounts.

Petitions advanced by the judge and solicitor of the recorder's court for salary increases did not receive favorable consideration, and the \$75 salary for the judge and \$65 monthly pay check for the solicitor will remain unchanged. In a discussion of the finances surrounding the operation of the court, it was learned that the tribunal showed a net operating profit of about \$1,000 last year.

Several old-timers, finding it next to humanly impossible to survive on the mere cash pittance issued them each month, pleaded with the board for small pension increases. Several others appealed to the board in an effort to get their names on the pension list. The pensioners in this county are receiving slightly more than \$9 a month, on an average.

An unusual case was heard by the commissioners when a middle-aged man requested the board to admit his mother to the county home. There have been cases where children have hauled their parents to the institution for the aged and infirm in an automobile and dumped them out, but the request yesterday was the first heard by the board in years. The petitioner was referred to the welfare department where the merits of his case will be weighed with the possibility that he really has something.

Luther Hardison appeared before the board again and asked that every effort be made to get the highway commission to take over a road

## No Trace Of Negro Missing From Boat

Mystery continues to surround the disappearance of Eddie Moore, young colored man, from a Ronoke River log barge at Jamesville last Wednesday afternoon. While the case has not been closed by the sheriff's office, it is believed by officers that the man fell off the boat and drowned.

Efforts to locate the body in the river at Jamesville were continued without success last Saturday when the stream was dynamited at the direction of Sheriff C. B. Roebuck. No trace of the man was found, but today a sorrowing mother posted a \$25 reward for any information about her son.

Moore was working behind a pile of logs on the barge and out of view of fellow workers when he suddenly disappeared.

### ALLOTMENTS

Tobacco allotments for 1941 are being mailed to Martin County farmers this week, Mr. T. B. Slade, of the county agent's office, announcing that the individual allotments are virtually the same as they were a year ago. Possibly a few errors were adjusted, and proper divisions were effected in those cases where farm transfers were made since last year.

The county has a tobacco allotment this year of 9,474 acres.

## Britain Continues Preparations For Invasion Attempt

### Closer Collaboration Between France and Germany Is Believed Certain

While the Greek and British war machines chalk up far-reaching victories in Albania and Africa to feature the current news on the actual war fronts, Great Britain feverishly continues preparations for another invasion attempt, scheduled, according to military observer, for some time within the next three or four months.

On the English-German warfront interest is now centered on the outcome of plans for a closer collaboration of effort on the part of France and Germany. It is fairly apparent that Germany has scored gains on the diplomatic front, and the return of Laval to Petain's government is certain. General Weygand, commander of France's large African army has refused to join Charles de Gaulle and his Free Frenchmen in the fight against Germany, and declares he will act only at the wishes of Petain and the Vichy government. The surrender of the French navy to Germany is even predicted in some quarters.

Petain's representative is returning to Vichy today following a conference with Laval and Hitler's representative in Paris. It is predicted that Laval will be the strong man in France, and the extent of France's collaboration with Germany will be determined shortly.

Late reports state that Italian lines in Eritrea have fallen and that the Italians are in full retreat. Greece, in her fight in Albania, is pleading for more British aid, and British officers are inspecting Turkey's defenses, meaning possibly that Hitler is putting up sign posts for a march in the Balkans.

German reports claim 43,000 tons of British shipping during the past week, but Britain says the tonnage is hardly in excess of 30,000 tons. British airmen have raided repeatedly invasion points along the

## Hit-Run Victim Recovering In A Washington Hospital

John Hyman Revels, Martin County man who was critically injured by a hit-run automobile driver on the Jamesville Road a little over a week ago, is reported improving in a Washington hospital. It is thought now that doctors will be able to save his leg for him.