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Advertisers Will Find Our Columns A Latchkey To Over 1,600 Homes Of Martin County.

ESTABLISHED 1899

Russia Pledges Aid For Turkey Against Germany In Balkans

Step Is Recognized As First Direct Step To Influence Trend of the War

Another big question mark for Germany in the Balkans loomed before the eyes of Adolf Hitler yesterday when Russia took its first direct step in influencing the trend of the war by pledging Turkey aid in case of an attack. Simultaneously with the pledge announcement, Russia increased her armed forces on both land and sea opposite German might in southeastern Europe. It was also announced that Russia had discontinued shipments of oil and other supplies into Germany. Hitler, apparently working to offset the meaning of the announcement, pushed forward a self-imposed agreement upon Yugoslavia whose officials are said to be en route to Vienna to sign with the Axis. However, all is not well in Yugoslavia where the people oppose any hook-up with Germany.

The last preliminary act is believed now nearing completion before the curtain is raised on an attack by Germany against little Greece and possibly against Turkey and the Dardanelles. Turkey, in an official announcement yesterday, stated that Russia is now certainly using the most friendly language toward England since before the beginning of the war.

As Yugoslav officials moved out of Belgrade for Vienna to sign with Germany, their lives were threatened by an angry mob who branded them as traitors.

On land war activity is centered in Albania where the Greeks are still driving successfully against the Italians. There is some activity in Africa, but the attention of the world has been glued on the developments in the Balkans and along the British shipping lanes. England while she has not suffered to the extent claimed by Germany, is apparently hard-pressed at sea, and the need for United States convoys is rapidly becoming recognized, many authorities pointing out that the success of the British aid program depends upon safe shipment of goods and supplies to England.

The Japanese situation has apparently cooled off for the present, at least, and Mussolini finds his Italy in one big mess. Beaten by the heroic Greeks, Italy is now at the mercy of the Germans who hold about 20 divisions within her borders to take over after the last blow is struck.

Following the signing of the limited pact by Germany and Yugoslavia today, President Roosevelt ordered the "freezing" of Yugoslavia's funds in this country. England served notice on Yugoslavia that she deserved the right to attack German forces wherever she found them.

Italy's general in charge of the African campaign has resigned, and Germany is said to be taking over in Libya.

Today, Germany claimed that a British battleship, two cruisers and an oil tanker had been struck and damaged in the Mediterranean. An unofficial report released today stated that British shipping losses last week were not as great as they were the week before.

This country has definitely stated its stand and backed it up in the passage of the seven-billion-dollar appropriations bill, and increased aid, possibly in the form of convoys is to be expected.

Strikes on the defense front are becoming serious, and the mediation board recently appointed by President Roosevelt is being called into session by the chairman. Ninety per cent of the 21,000 in the Bethlehem Steel Corporation's plant in Pennsylvania are expected to be out by late this afternoon, and the International Harvester Company's plant in Chicago is likely to be closed shortly by strike.

College Alumni In Meeting Here

The annual meeting of the Martin County Alumni of A.C.C., Wilson, was held at the Woman's Club on Friday evening. After dinner at which Rev. J. M. Perry, retiring president, presided, Mr. Russell Roebuck, general secretary, took charge of the meeting.

He introduced John K. Wooten, a senior of the school, who made a short talk on the value of the school to its student body.

Prof. Cecil Jarman then reviewed the work of the alumni association for the past several years and complimented Mr. Roebuck on the progress being made under his leadership.

Mr. Sherwood Roberson, of Robersonville, was elected president; Mrs. Wheeler Martin, vice president, and Mrs. A. R. White, secretary, for the coming year.

Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Roberson, Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler Manning, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Manning, Mrs. White, Mr. and Mrs. Leaman Barnhill, Rev. and Mrs. J. M. Perry, Mrs. John Warren, Miss Cleo James, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Manning, Jr., Rev. J. L. Goff, Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Peel, and Prof. Jarman, John K. Wooten, Hardy L. Thompson and Mr. Roebuck, of the college.

Seine Fishing Is Now Underway in Roanoke

DINNER SPEAKER



Early Reports Are Not Very Pleasing At County Fishery

Two Or Three Herrings Are Caught in First 'Haul' At Jamesville Yesterday

Seine fishing got underway in the Roanoke River at Jamesville yesterday, early reports describing the first-day activities stating that the outlook for a successful season were not encouraging. However, the operators or no one else can tell what the next "haul" will bring forth, and the owner-operator, C. C. Fleming, is hopeful of the best. The plant last season had one of its most successful years in almost a decade. Reports from the shore are not very encouraging so far, but the season is young yet and the fish can be expected.

As operations were continued yesterday, catches numbering up to nearly 250 were reported toward the close of the day, the plant having made seven or eight hauls before quitting time. Only two or three shad were taken yesterday as compared with 31 at a single dip on opening day a year ago. Reports from the fishery this morning stated that the catches were small. Seldom does the fishery pay operating expenses during the first few days of the season, but about the middle of April the fish are taken by the tens of thousands and it is to that period that thousands of people are looking forward to. When the dogwood trees begin to put on a white dress, the fish come up the river in increased number and visitors form an almost steady line to and from the fishery.

As far as it could be learned here, the fisheries near Plymouth will not be operated this season.

Sixty Students To Represent Local Schools In Contest

Hundreds Will Participate in District Music Contest at Greenville Friday

Approximately sixty students from Williamston high school will go to Greenville Friday, March 28, to enter the district music contest held there annually under the sponsorship of the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina. The competition will have its finals at Greenville this year under a new ruling of the N. C. Choral Association. The Greensboro meet, which was the finale last year and to which the local school sent winners in four events will be devoted exclusively to the training of two 500 voice choruses composed of members from all parts of the State. The local school plans to send representatives to this chorus next year.

The local high school has made a fine record at both the Greenville and the Greensboro competitions during the last two years. Last year the girls' trio, mixed quartet and two soloists earned high ratings in both cities under the direction of Miss Kathryn Mewborn, who trains the choral groups in the Williamston schools.

The following groups will represent the local high school in the Greenville contest:

A mixed chorus of 42 voices singing "Water Boy," by Robinson-Trebarne;

A girls' glee club of 24 voices singing "Down in the Forest," by Ronald-Krone;

The girls' trio, composed of Mary Trulah Peele, Marjorie Grey Dunn and Elizabeth Parker, singing "How Sweet the Moonlight Sleeps Upon This Bank," by Calcott;

The boys' quartet, composed of James Ward, Gerald James, Roosevelt Coltrain and Irving Gurganus, singing "Drink to Me Only With Thine Eyes," arranged by Pitcher;

A mixed quartet composed of Alberta Swain, Lenore Nelson, Hewett Andrews, and Billy Peele, singing "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" by Practorius;

A soprano solo by Mary O'Neal Pope, "Brown Bird Singing," by Wood.

The entire program being prepared (Continued on page six)

PRE-SCHOOL CLINICS

The first in a series of pre-school clinics was held in the local school this morning, the county health officer stating that others would be held according to the following schedule: Williamson again on Wednesday at 8:30; Jamesville, Thursday; Bear Grass, Friday; Farm Life, next Monday; Hamilton and Hassell on Tuesday, April 1. The clinics will be suspended for two weeks and then carried to the other schools in the county.

The importance of the clinics has been pointed out by health authorities, and parents are urged to accompany to the clinics those little folks who will enter school next fall. In last year's beginners' class ninety per cent of the children were examined. Dr. Williams is anxious to boost the percentage this year.

Ten colored selectees are slated to leave the county next Tuesday at 9:30 o'clock, and ten white men are scheduled to leave on April 8. The colored selectees are being taken from a list of volunteers.

There are three white volunteers on the list, meaning that seven men will have to be drawn from the draft roll for the April 8th quota.

\$60,000. In Bonds Are Sold On Open Market By Town

The last obstacle to a general improvement program here was removed this morning when the town sold \$60,000 in bonds on the open market to the Equitable Securities Corporation, of Nashville, Tenn. Bringing a \$1 premium, the bonds are to carry a 4 1/4 per cent interest rate. Local Government officials in Raleigh stating that they considered the sale a very favorable one. The bonds were handled by the commission at its office in Raleigh.

Within the next twenty or thirty days, the town will call for bids for extending water and sewer lines and increasing the water supply and for improving a number of streets.

Several Are Hurt In Series Of Auto Accidents Sunday

Two-in-one Accident Reported on Washington Road Near Here

Several persons were hurt but none seriously in a series of automobile accidents reported in this area Saturday night and Sunday. Property damage resulting in the four wrecks was estimated at \$429 by Patrolman Whit Saunders who was kept busy during the weekend.

Complete details on one of the wrecks could not be learned immediately. Ernest Sheppard, driving one of the cars, left from the scene of the accident and could not be questioned. Three passengers in his car, two men and a woman, were treated at a doctor's office, but their injuries were not serious.

John Eason Peel, driving toward Washington, started to turn off the highway into the Bear Grass Road at the Staton farm, near here. Sheppard, driving in the same direction, apparently planned to turn down the same road and sideswiped the Peel car, continuing on into a ditch. Sheppard did not tarry long, it was reported. James Bailey Peel, driving Chas. H. Jenkins' Company's wrecker, went to clear the wreck about 1 o'clock. After hooking on to Shepard's old Model A, he started to drive out of the Bear Grass Road onto the Washington highway, but seeing an approaching car, he stopped. Oddious Corey, colored, swerved to his right about 100 feet from the Bear Grass Road and headed for the wrecker. Patrolman Saunders yelled a warning to Peel and others and cleared out of Corey's path. Peel taking refuge in a ditch partly filled with water, Corey was booked on a drunken driving charge, and released under bond in the sum of

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Starting up the old divorce mill between tiresome and long drawn-out civil actions, the Martin County Superior Court yesterday granted five separations without delay and without argument. Based on two years of separation, divorces were granted in the following cases, Mary Bell Dryver against Emmet Chad-Dryer, Capitola Rogers against Russell Rogers, Rebecca Jennett Whitley against James Whitley, Geraldine Moore against Grover Moore and Dora Manning against George B. Manning.

Other than on the divorce front, the court accomplished very little yesterday as far as clearing cases from the docket was concerned. Several hours were devoted to the trial of a single case, and more than one and one-half hours was required for a special hearing on a motion made by out-of-county attorneys.

Suing to recover on a note, Mrs. Estelle Harper, administratrix of Mrs. Eula E. House, was awarded a judgment in the sum of \$498.30 with interest from February 17, 1939, in the case against J. W. Ferrell. It was pointed out in the judgment that the defendant had not filed an answer even though the papers were served in June, 1940.

In the case of J. T. Daniel against Jasper Harrell and Gus Cowen, the court continued a restraining order granted by Judge Walter Bone sometime ago. The court ordered, however, that timber and piling cut on certain lands in question should be removed and sold by Defendant Cowen and the proceeds deposited with the clerk of court until the trial of the case.

Starting the trial of the case brought by E. H. Jefferson against the Southern Land Sales Corporation, yesterday afternoon, the court was still hearing evidence in the case at noon today. The suit involves a deed to 65 acres of land in Goose Neck Township. Adjournment for the term is expected tomorrow.

"It has been found that one out of every five ears of corn fed to a wormy pig is for the worms," Vestel said in pointing out the need for advances made in recent years in hog raising, and led an interesting discussion. The topic was discussed at length, the thirty or more farmers in attendance upon the meeting showing a marked interest and showered the specialist with questions. Well posted in his field, he was ready at all times with his answers.

"The marketing outlook for hogs is fairly encouraging," E. V. Vestel, swine specialist for the North Carolina Extension Division, told a group of Martin County farmers at a farm forum held in the agricultural building here last night. "Move some of the surplus lard out of the country to the hungry in Europe and I believe hog prices will reach and possibly pass the nine-cent mark by next fall," the specialist added.

Stressing a greater need for sanitation in raising hogs, Vestel, with the aid of pictures, pointed out—the advances made in recent years in hog raising, and led an interesting discussion. The topic was discussed at length, the thirty or more farmers in attendance upon the meeting showing a marked interest and showered the specialist with questions. Well posted in his field, he was ready at all times with his answers.

"It has been found that one out of every five ears of corn fed to a wormy pig is for the worms," Vestel said in pointing out the need for greater sanitation. He suggested definite methods in controlling worms such as changing farrowing lots, washing the sows and hams, limit the bedding to about two inches of straw in the house. According to the

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DON'T FORGET

Red Cross members and any and all others interested in suffering humanity across the seas are urged to attend a meeting in the agricultural building this evening at 7:30 o'clock. Leo Williams, Red Cross field representative, will address the meeting in connection with the movement to aid Britain.

Equalization Board Effecting Number of Changes in Property Valuations in Martin County

Where \$7,000,000,000 Will Go

	AIRCRAFT and ACCESSORIES	\$ 2,054,000,000
	FARM COMMODITIES, ARTICLES	\$ 1,350,000,000
	ARMS, AMMUNITION, ARMOR	\$ 1,343,000,000
	FACTORIES, MACHINERY, TOOLS, SUPPLIES	\$ 752,000,000
	SHIPS and FACILITIES	\$ 629,000,000
	TANKS, TRUCKS, AUTO PARTS	\$ 362,000,000
	MILITARY EQUIPMENT	\$ 260,000,000
	CONDITIONING ARTICLES & DEFENSE for the DEMOCRACIES	\$ 200,000,000
	FUND for CONTINGENCIES	\$ 40,000,000
	ADMINISTRATION	\$ 10,000,000

Passing a bill for financing the lease-lend program, the United States Senate yesterday

made available seven billion dollars for the purchase of certain kinds of goods and services outlined in the above chart.

Five Divorces Are Granted In Single Afternoon by Court

Judge W. C. Harris Expected To Adjourn Term Late Tomorrow

A shortage in tobacco plants reported in this county following a cold season the early part of last week has lost much of its seriousness, many farmers stating that with favorable conditions in the future there'll be an ample supply of the "precious" plants this season.

It is fairly certain that the cold spell did some damage, and while many plants were killed and others damaged, the supply should be ample to care for the needs in this county. Most farmers planted more than twice as many beds as were actually needed.

Findings assessed values on cleared acreage higher in Williamson than any other township, the equalization board is said to be considering a blanket reduction of \$2 an acre.

The proposal will reduce real values in the township by \$16,538, and throw the values mighty close to the listings in other townships where land is hardly as valuable. For instance, cleared land in Jamesville will, under the new proposal, carry a value of \$37.61 per acre on an average as compared with \$29.62 in Williams, \$36.00 in Griffins, \$36.41 in Bear Grass, \$37.85 in Williamson, \$35.33 in Cross Roads, \$37.66 in Robersonville, \$37.40 in Poplar Point, \$31.60 in Hamilton, and \$33.74 in Goose Nest.

Values assessed against vacant lots in the town of Everett will be materially upset if the board follows through with a proposal before the body. A motion has been made and approved subject to later change calling for a 50 per cent decrease in values placed on vacant lots in the town. In addition to that reduction, the board is considering a blanket reduction in values assessed against all buildings in the town of Everett.

Figures are not complete, but the approximately \$16,538 that will be lost in a \$2 per acre reduction in values on cleared land in Williamson Township will be partly offset by increases in values assessed against homes in Williamson.

Before the board of equalization took over the books and started its work, real property in this county not including corporations, pulp mill and a few other listings in that category, carried a value of \$7,816,738 as determined by the boards of assessors. The same class of property was valued at \$7,408,940 last year, the 1941 listings being \$407,798 greater. As far as revenue is concerned, the increase will add \$5,911.65 to the county's tax income.

While subject to change and correction following the completion of the equalization board's work, the 1941 values are compared with the 1940 listings for real property showing gains, as follows:

J'ville	\$ 760,217	\$ 746,902	\$ 13,315
Wil'ms	272,685	232,894	39,791
Grif	436,435	386,949	49,486
B. G.	453,246	436,	