

## Cotton Stamps Will Make Appearance in County Next August

### Farmers Will Be Paid \$25 An Acre For Taking Cotton Out of Production

Cotton order stamps to be issued in connection with a new supplementary reduction program of the staple, will be seen in this county some time during the summer, according to information coming from the office of the farm agent. Farmers participating in the supplementary program will be issued the order stamps just as soon as they make known their intention to the farm agent's office and the plantings are checked in the summer for compliance.

A picture of the cotton "money" stamp appears elsewhere in this paper.

Questions and answers prepared in connection with the use of the stamp money follow:

Q—After the cotton farmer has been given cotton stamps for voluntarily reducing the cotton acreage under the Supplementary Cotton Program, what can he do with them?

A—He can use them in any cooperating retail store in exchange for new products made entirely in the United States and entirely from cotton fiber produced in the United States.

Bindings, buttons, and other fasteners and trimmings shall not be considered in determining whether such commodity is made entirely of cotton.

Q—How will he know whether a store is cooperating in the program?

A—By asking within the store. However, experience of the Department of Agriculture with a similar program, the Cotton Stamp Plan, shows that nearly every retail store which sells cotton goods does cooperate. Most cooperating stores will display signs announcing their acceptance of cotton order stamps.

Q—What are some of the cotton products that can be bought with cotton stamps?

A—Cotton piece goods, dresses, shirts, sheets, pants, overalls, children's and infants' clothes, underwear, mattresses, blankets, work gloves, plowlines, stockings, and any other cotton products.

Q—May cotton stamps be used to buy second-hand clothes or renovated mattresses?

A—No. Cotton stamps may be used to buy only new products which are made entirely of cotton.

Q—Will persons using cotton stamps get the same cotton products as persons who pay cash?

A—Yes, and at the same price.

Q—May retail merchants give change to customers using cotton stamps?

A—No. Since merchants cannot give change and since cotton stamps are printed only in 25-cent denominations, what is done when the price of the cotton goods purchased does not come out exactly to 25 cents, 50 cents, or some other multiple of 25?

A—Suppose the purchase price is 60 cents. (1) The customer could give two cotton stamps representing 50 cents to the merchant and pay the additional 10 cents in cash, or (2) the purchaser could give the merchant three cotton order stamps representing 75 cents and buy some other cotton goods product that costs 15 cents, or (3) the customer could give three cotton order stamps representing 75 cents to the merchant and receive from the merchant a credit slip for 15 cents which could be used later for the purchase of cotton goods at the same store.

Q—Will retail stores accept cotton stamps?

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## Ten Facing Trial In Federal Court

Ten Martin County men will face trial in the federal court at Washington next Monday when Judge Isaac M. Meekins convenes a regular term of the high tribunal. Caught for alleged violation of the liquor laws, all of the men were bound over to the court for trial at preliminary hearings held here before United States Commissioner Walter Halberstadt during the past several months. Seven men from Bertie were bound over by the commissioner under similar law violations.

Names of seven of the men from this county to appear for trial are, Leroy Hopkins, Thomas Gibson, Cecil Phippen, James Phippen, Robert Bailey, Will Rogers and Walter Pierce. Hopkins and Gibson are under bond in the sum of \$1,000 each, Bailey and Rogers under a \$500 bond and Pierce under bond in the sum of \$250.

Toby Bowen, James H. Taylor and J. R. Cherry, charged with violating the Internal Revenue Act, were slated for trial in the court at Washington next Monday by United States Commissioner Walter Halberstadt here yesterday afternoon.

Names of the Bertie defendants are, Jeff Rice, G. M. Harrell, Robert Harrell, Vance Roane, Dorsey Ward, Rufus Bond and Edgar Smith.

## COUNTY'S MARCH SELECTEES



The five selectees above left this county week before last for Fort Bragg. In the group is the first man to be drafted, twenty-two white volunteers having preceded him to camp. Listed above, left to right, are Joseph Carl Williams, the second man drafted and the first to be accepted into the service; Joseph Gurganus, Lance Dutton Hardy, who was rejected on account of physical disability; Douglas Albert Currie and Woodrow Wynne.

## Values Changed Little By Equalization Board In the County Recently

### FISHING

After a slow start earlier in the week, the fishery at Jamesville today reported increases in its catches, the number ranging from one to about five hundred. More shad are being taken, too, the seine yesterday dipping up six at one time.

A slight rise in the river yesterday is expected to improve fishing conditions, and within the next few days the plant is expected to start pushing toward a peak which generally comes about the second or third week in April.

## Yugoslavia-German Pact Is Repudiated By New Government

### New Order Ousts Pro-German Leaders and Makes Ready For Warfare

Yugoslavia's non-aggression pact with Germany has been repudiated, and the pro-German leaders have either been chased out of the country or placed behind prison bars. Ascending to the throne before his time King Peter and his following strong against Germany, denounced the pact signed by the old government just a short time before, and made ready with British forces to repulse any invasion attempt by Hitler. The repudiation of the pact was hailed yesterday throughout the world as one of the greatest diplomatic victories to be credited to the British in the war to date.

Officially the pact has not been repudiated, but the new regime is anti-German and Hitler can hardly expect cooperation from Yugoslavia. Following the fall of Prince Paul and his pro-German leaders, Germany issued an ultimatum to Yugoslavia and fixed 12 o'clock today as a deadline for an answer. The hour has passed and as far as it can be learned at this time, Germany is still patiently awaiting answer. It is Hitler's move now, and in anticipation of that move Yugoslavia has called more men to arms, increasing its forces to 1,500,000. Britain is also said to have moved forces to join the Yugoslav armed forces apparently to challenge any invasion attempt by Hitler.

The reversal of the order left German and Italian nationals on high and dry land, and reports stated that as soon as King Peter stepped into power they made a hurried dash to get out of the country.

### PRE-SCHOOL CLINIC

The response to Williamston's pre-school clinic on last Tuesday and Wednesday equalled that of previous years as fifty-six children reported for examination and immunization. The clinic was the first in a series arranged to prepare beginning children for school attendance in advance of the opening of the schools in the fall. The county health physician and nurses conducted the clinic.

## Reductions Almost Offset By Increase In Other Listings

### Thirty-five Property Owners To Have Opportunity To Appeal To the Board

After untold worry and much head scratching, the Martin County Commissioners, sitting as a board of equalization and review, completed its review of the 1941 tax books last Wednesday. Changing values in 67 instances in addition to a blanket reduction on cleared land in Williamston Township and a horizontal reduction on certain properties in Everetts, the board when it got through had reduced the total value of real property in the county by \$32, not including a blanket reduction on certain properties in Everetts. The amount of the reduction ordered in Everetts could not be learned immediately, the board ordering a fifty per cent decrease in the listings on lots and a reduction based on 10 per cent for homes. The 10 per cent figure was used as a base, some owners receiving possibly a reduction of 15 per cent and another five, and so on.

While the total values were left virtually unchanged, the commissioners tore into the listings turned in by the boards of assessors and upped values in 35 instances and lowered them in 32 other instances. A total of \$30,875 was added to the list, mostly with increases in values assessed against Williamston homes recognized by the board to be out of line with other similar listings, and a total of \$30,907 was deducted from the list, the latter figure including a blanket decrease for cleared land values in Williamston Township but not the reductions ordered on a horizontal basis in Everetts. When the Everetts listings are taken into account and reductions effected, it isn't believed that the real property values will reflect a change of more than a thousand or two dollars from the sums fixed by the assessors.

These changes, it must be remembered, will be rated by judges supplied by the American Legion Auxiliary. It is the plan at the present to have one of the pageants re-enacted as part of the program of the Martin County Fair which will be held next fall. The schedule of the pageants is as follows:

- Farm Life, Monday, March 31st, 2 p. m.
- Robersonville, Tuesday, April 1st, 2 p. m.
- Oak City, Wednesday, April 2nd, 2 p. m.
- Bear Grass, Thursday, April 3rd, 10 a. m.
- Everetts, Friday, April 4th, 2 p. m.
- Williamston, Tuesday, April 8th, 2 p. m.
- Jamesville, Thursday, April 10th, 2 p. m.

The date for holding the Hamilton pageant has not been definite settled at the present time. It is the hope of the people who are sponsoring these pageants that the public will show their interest by attending. An attempt is being made to give the teachers and children of each school the privilege of attending a pageant in another school. Plans for this will be worked out later.

## Plan For Jacking Up Farm Prices Is Being Considered

### Increased Rate of Loans To Boost Farm Income About A Billion Dollars

No sky-high prices are anticipated, but far-reaching plans are being considered in Washington for jacking up the annual income for agriculture. Declaring that farmers are entitled to their fair share of the national income and defense "prosperity," members of the United States Senate Agriculture Committee this week unanimously approved an increased rate of loans to farmers.

Senator Bankhead (D. Ala.) author of the bill seeking to increase prices for cotton, wheat, corn, tobacco and rice, estimated it would "add about a billion dollars (annually) to income of these producers."

The committee action won immediate support from Edward A. O'Neal, president of the American Farm Bureau, who said the farmer was the "Forgotten Man" in the national defense emergency.

In brief, the Bankhead bill proposes to use government loans to raise prices of cotton, wheat, and corn well above recent market prices to the level of previous government loans on these commodities.

The theory is that markets or buyers would be forced to pay farmers these higher prices, or the crop would be placed under government loans. Before farmers would be eligible for these higher loans they would have to comply with rigid planting and marketing regulations.

Bankhead said his bill aimed at giving farmers "full parity by a loan that would place a floor under these prices."

A "parity price," under existing farm legislation, is one that would assure a farm product the same relative purchasing power it had in some previous base period, usually the pre-war period of 1909-14.

Bankhead said the legislation would order government loans at a "parity price level less the amount of soil conservation payments."

As an example, cotton has been selling at near 10 cents a pound and recent government loans have been below this figure, although the present parity price is 15.87 cents a pound. Because growers receive 1.37 cents as "soil conservation payments," the proposed new loan would be 14.1-2 cents, or nearly 50 per cent above present market prices.

## Schools In County To Present Series Of Pageants Soon

### First of the State Historical Programs To Be Staged At Farm Life

The larger elementary schools in Martin County in cooperation with the American Legion Auxiliary are putting on a North Carolina Pageant as part of the summary of the year's work. The program was planned last September and all of the schools have been working toward this as part of their commencement exercises.

The pageants are planned to portray the growth and development of North Carolina since the first colony was planted on Roanoke Island. Some of the schools are using every child in the elementary department and all of the schools are using more than a hundred children. These pageants are scheduled to last approximately one hour and a half.

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## Oxford Singers To Appear In Robersonville April 2

Wednesday, April 2nd, at 7:30, the singing class from the Oxford Orphanage will appear in a concert in Robersonville at the high school. The public is invited and urged to attend.

## Increased Activities Reported On All Draft Board Fronts In Anticipation Of April Quotas

### Red Cross Reorganized Here, Production Unit Established

Reorganizing its Martin County Chapter at a meeting held in the agricultural building last Tuesday evening, the American Red Cross formulated plans for an increased activity in this county in the future. James C. Manning was made chairman to succeed Harry A. Biggs who has held the post for nearly ten years. Rev. John W. Hardy was named vice chairman for Williams-ton and Mrs. Noah Rogerson, of Bear Grass, vice chairman for the county. Other officers were named, as follows: Mrs. E. T. Walker, secretary, and Herman Bowen, treasurer. Harry Biggs will serve as chairman of the roll call next November.

Addressing the meeting of nearly 75 women and a few men, Red Cross Field Director C. Leo Wilhelm stated that out of 120 chapters in North Carolina only four did not have pro-

duction units. He told of war conditions in Europe and explained how the Red Cross was trying to care for the overwhelming number of pitiful cases in the subjugated countries. He pointed out that there was a great need for additional supplies, and that the thousands of Red Cross chapters in the nation were sewing and knitting for the war's unfortunate victims. Refused by several who were too busy, the position of production committee chairman for the local chapter was accepted by Mrs. A. R. Dunning who will, no doubt, launch an effective drive for production. Plans for the production unit have not been completed, but the American Legion has offered the use of its building here, and it is likely that headquarters will be stationed there and activities started at an early date.

## Plans For New 1941 Soil Program Ready

### Farmers Will Sign New Schedule This Week in the County

### Cotton Stamp Applications Will Also Be Received in The Several Districts

Martin County farmers will, to a large extent, determine their farm plans for 1941 today and tomorrow when they make ready to participate in the new 1941 soil conservation program. They are expected to make known their reaction to the cotton stamp plan when they visit the committees in the respective districts to study their individual farm plans.

In connection with the sign-up this week, the agents' office is issuing the following letter:

In order for a farm to receive any payment under the 1941 Soil Conservation Program, it will be necessary for the operator to sign a Farm Plan by April 15, 1941.

The Farm Plan for your farm has been prepared. For your convenience in signing, your committee men will have this Farm Plan at the place in your community on the dates shown below. After these dates, it will be necessary for you to come to the Agricultural Building in Williams-ton.

Bear Grass: Friday and Saturday, March 28 and 29, Bear Grass.

Cross Roads, Friday and Saturday, March 28 and 29, Everetts.

Goose Nest, Friday and Saturday, March 28 and 29, Oak City.

Griffins, Friday and Saturday, March 28 and 29, Manning's Store.

Hamilton: Friday and Saturday, March 28 and 29, Hassell.

Hamilton: Monday and Tuesday, March 31 and April 1, Hamilton.

Jamesville: Friday and Saturday, March 28 and 29, Sexton's Store.

Robersonville: Friday and Saturday, March 28 and 29, Next to post office.

Poplar Point: Agricultural Building, Williamston.

Williams: Agricultural Building, Williamston.

Williamston: Agricultural Building, Williamston.

The several community committees were in a meeting here yesterday going over the new program.

Under the Cotton Stamp Plan, an additional payment in Cotton Stamps can be earned for voluntary reduction.

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## Respected Citizen Dies Near Oak City

Mark L. Bunting, respected Martin County citizen, died at his home yesterday morning at 1:30 o'clock following a long period of declining health. A sufferer of cancer, he had been confined to his bed for several months. His suffering he bore patiently and without complaint.

Mr. Bunting was born near Gold Point nearly 73 years ago. After spending his early life there he located on a farm a few miles from Oak City. In early manhood he was married to Miss Susan Whitfield who survives with four children, Joe R. Ernest B. and Kelly S. Bunting, and Mrs. Z. D. Cox, all of Oak City.

Funeral services are being conducted at the late home this afternoon at 2 o'clock and interment will follow in the Gary Bunting or old Whitfield burial ground, near Gold Point.

## Questionnaires Are Being Delivered To Number Registrants

### Call 39 Men in April; Board Scheduled To Meet Next Monday Night

Anticipating calls for at least 39 men in April, the Martin County Draft Board is reporting increased activities on all its fronts with the possibility that the draft machinery will be running full speed during the next few days.

According to unofficial information received from otherwise recognized sources, Martin County will be called upon for twenty-five colored selectees during April, ten next Tuesday and fifteen between that time and the 21st. Fourteen white trainees are scheduled to report to camp during the month, ten on April 8 and four some time after April 8. Advised of the tentative call Wednesday, the board turned to its records and found that it had hardly enough white men classified to fill the April quota.

A meeting of the draft board, Messrs. R. H. Goodmon, chairman, Dr. Jesse Ward, secretary, and J. H. Ayers, will meet next Monday to classify more men. During the meantime the draft board office is mailing out additional questionnaires at the rate of 50 a day. The office of the examining board physicians is working from one to two days each week. Assistants for filling in questionnaires for registrants are now getting busy again, meaning that there is an increased activity along all the draft board front. Even the appeal officer may go into action shortly.

Following the April calls, this county will have to furnish 56 men to round out its first-year quota of 147 men, and it is quite evident that some of the selections will be made from order numbers fairly high in the list. To date only fifteen white men out of every 100 have found their way into the service, and these figures are subject to change before the April quotas are filled. Approximately 1700 white men in this county registered last October. Eight hundred questionnaires have been mailed and returned. The board has classified 400 of the 800. Of the 206 white classifications, thirty-one men have been selected for service. Had it not been for 22 white volunteers, the draft board would possibly have had to classify 150 more registrants to fill the quotas through April.

No colored men have been drawn from the draft list as yet, but when the April quotas are filled there will be only seven volunteers left. Altogether, 58 colored men have volunteered. By late next month 39 will have left for camp. Eleven of the 58 withdrew and three failed to pass the physical examinations, leaving seven in reserve for future calls.

Of ten white men examined this week five failed to pass, and one of the five passing the examination is appealing for a re-classification because he got married a short time ago. Unofficial but reliable information gained this week clearly indicates that a young man can defeat or dodge the draft by marrying before he receives orders to report to camp. While it is possible that some young men will prefer a marital status to a year's army service, it should be remembered that many marriages are going forward according to plan, to use Hitler's vernacular. A young man may be called for examination today, and if he marries before he receives his induction papers he has a right to appeal for a re-classification. Two deferments have been granted in this county in recent weeks to young men who en-

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### PEANUT BILL

Safely over all congressional hurdles, the bill providing marketing quotas for peanuts and a referendum is now awaiting the President's signature before becoming law. The Chief Executive is slated to sign the paper immediately upon his return to Washington early next week.

During the meantime, plans are being advanced for holding a referendum within the next two or three weeks and certainly within the next thirty days. The bill as passed by Congress provides for diversion when and if the price of the goobers falls below a certain figure.

## Number Civil Cases Settled By General Agreement In Court

### Judgments Placed in Hands Of Clerk of Court Thursday for Docketing

Filing a number of judgments yesterday morning with the clerk, the Martin County Superior Court completed another term which was marked by the absence of important cases. In fact, there were comparatively few cases on the calendar and the court would have completed its work Tuesday had it not been for a long drawn-out trial in the case of E. H. Jefferson against the Southern Land Sales Corporation. Starting the trial of the case Monday afternoon, the court cleared it from the docket Wednesday afternoon.

Jefferson was suing the corporation for a title to certain lands, the court awarding him a judgment in the sum of \$1,000 with interest from July 13, 1936. An appeal was noted by the defense.

In the case of Slade-Rhodes Company against Smith-Douglas Company, the plaintiff took nothing, but an appeal was noted.

In the case of Sarah Copeland against W. R. Copeland, the court ordered the defendant to appear before His Honor, Judge W. C. Harris, in Tarboro next Monday and show cause why he should not be attached for contempt for failing to make payments to the plaintiff as ordered in a former judgment. The defendant, a WPA employee, was unable to be present for the trial here this week as he had to attend a meeting elsewhere.

An appeal by the defendant was dismissed and the judgment of Justice J. L. Hassell's court was approved in the case of Salsbury Supply Company against George Wynne.

Robert Purvis Latham was granted one-half undivided interest in certain property in her case against Elizabeth Purvis and others.

### COTTON

After reaching a low point in cotton production in 1939, Martin County farmers staged a healthy comeback last year to chalk up a record in the production of the lint for recent years. Nine times as much cotton was produced in 1940 than in 1939, the Department of Commerce this week listing the 1940 production at 4,896 bales as compared with 528 bales the year before.

## Four Percent Town Improvement Bonds

Selling \$60,000 improvement bonds in Raleigh this week, the Town of Williamston is making preparations to advance a general improvement program including street paving, an added water supply and extensions to water and sewer lines. Just when bids will be called could not be learned today as the town engineer, Henry Rivers, was ill in a Durham hospital. His recovery is expected shortly and the program will be launched as soon as possible.

According to first reports received here last Tuesday afternoon from the Local Government Commission, the agency handling the sale of the bonds, the \$60,000 issue was reported to carry a four and one-quarter interest rate. Later reports stated that the issue will carry only a four per cent interest, that the bonds were sold to the Equitable Securities Corporation at a \$1 premium. Four firms, Ph.D. Dickson, Lewis and Hall and the Equitable Company, submitted bids.