

Local High School Pupils Gain First Ratings In Contest

Youthful Singers Get Recognition at District Meet in Greenville

Outstanding success was achieved by the sixty students who represented the Williamston High School in the District Music Contest held in Greenville last Friday under the auspices of the North Carolina Choral Association and the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina. Singing in competition with 29 other schools of eastern Carolina, local students were awarded first honor ratings in three of the six events entered. Particularly gratifying to the youthful singers and their friends were the first place ratings given the large groups by the judges. Events entered and ratings awarded the local high schools follow:

Mixed chorus of 42 voices singing "Water Boy" by Robinson-Trehanne—first rating; girls' glee club of 24 voices singing "Down in the Forest," by Ronald-Krone—first rating; boys' quartet composed of Roosevelt Coltrain, Irvin Gurganus, James Ward, and Gerald James singing "Drink To Me Only with Thine Eyes" by Picher—first rating; soprano solo "Brown Bird Singing," by Wood, sung by Mary O'Neal Pope—second rating; girls' trio composed of Marjorie Gray Dunn, Elizabeth Parker and Mary Trulah Peele, singing, "How Sweet the Moonlight Sleeps Upon This Bank," by Calcott—second rating; mixed quartet composed of Hewett Andrews, Lenora Melson, Albert Swain and Billie Peele singing, "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming," by Praetorius—third rating.

This year's contest marked the third district competition for local students, who have shown marked improvement from year to year as evidenced by ratings awarded by the judges. Last year the local school qualified in three events with I and II ratings, and sent a boys' quartet, a girls' trio, a soprano soloist and a baritone soloist to the state finals in Greensboro. There the girls' trio composed of Marjorie Gray Dunn, Katherine Manning and Elizabeth Parker rated first.

While the Greenville meet is the finals of the music competition under the new arrangement, the I ratings achieved by local students qualify them to participate in the two 500-voice festival choruses which are to be assembled and trained at the Woman's College the last of this month; however, the pressure of classroom work and limited school time will not permit the large groups to participate in this event.

The marked progress being evidenced in the music department of the local school is a fine tribute to the able instruction and training given the students by Miss Kathryn Mewborn, director of public school music. In both the elementary and high schools students are expressing a lively interest in all music activities. In judging the large choruses, W. P. Twaddell, supervisor of music in the Durham City Schools and president of the North Carolina Choral Association, commented highly on the quality of work being done by Miss Mewborn.

Miss Grace Talton, first grade teacher, was piano accompanist for the soloists and choruses, and received much favorable comment for her work. Miss Talton's loyal cooperation and the quality of her playing have been important factors in the showing made by local students in competitive events.

Many favorable reports have come out of Greenville with respect not only to the fine singing of local students but also their appearance and general conduct. The Williamston community has every reason to be proud of its youthful singers.

Badly Carved By His Sweetheart

Octavius Daniel, young local Negro, was carved dangerously by his sweetheart, Alice Hinton, at the home of Martha Brown on White Street here last Sunday evening. Said to have been drinking and angered because he would not take her to a beer garden, the Hinton woman, using a razor, started carving on top of Daniel's head and continued to his stomach. After plowing a parting furrow on his head, the carver whacked him on the face in several places and bore down when she got to his trunk. Starting just under his left arm, Alice cut a streak to his stomach through his coat, sweater, vest and underclothes but the skin furrow was not very deep and when he reported to police headquarters he was apparently in little pain and was not planning on seeing a doctor.

Daniel, calling for a warrant, declared he refused to run and did not offer to fight back. It is understood that the woman has attacked Daniel before. He said Sunday night that he was getting tired of being cut and beaten up.

Investigating the case, officers learned that the man had attacked the woman, Daniel, learning that she was about to indict him, withdrew the warrant and paid the costs.

Initial Check-Up Shows That Many Haven't Listed Property

A preliminary check of the records shows that a large number of Martin County people have not listed their properties or poll for the year 1941. No official figures are yet available, and the authorities are not yet releasing a personal estimate, but it is fairly apparent that a startling situation in the tax foundation of this county will be found when the check is completed.

The survey of alleged tax dodgers is proceeding slowly, and it isn't likely that an official report will be made available within the next several weeks. While it is subject to correction, a preliminary check of the books for the Town of Jamesville shows that the names of 28 persons whose ages range from 21 to 36 years of age are not on the tax books. It must be remembered that this check is a preliminary one, and the

number will be reduced. It was reliably learned, however, that a few persons had escaped taxation there in one way or another during the past year or two, at least, and did not list for 1941. A former school teacher in the county listed his property a year ago, did not pay his taxes and did not list in 1941 although he was a resident as of January 1. It is fairly certain that non-listings in other districts will equal and possibly surpass those in Jamesville. In Williamston Township there are those property owners who did not list their personal properties after they were notified in person.

The recent action of the Martin County grand jury ordering a check of the tax list is already bringing a response, the authorities declaring that quite a few are coming in to list before warrants are issued.

County Farmers Will Support Soil Program

NEW BUILDING

No detailed announcement has been released, but according to reliable information gained here yesterday the Branch Banking and Trust Company is rapidly completing plans for the construction of a new building on the main street lot between the Watts Theatre and Woolard Hardware Company store. A deed for the property was recorded in the register of deeds office here yesterday.

When questioned today bank officials explained that plans for the building had not been completed, but that blueprints would be prepared immediately and actual work on the structure started on or about May 1.

William H. Rawls Dies At His Home In County Monday

Funeral Held This Afternoon For Well-Known Farmer In Poplar Point

William Henry Rawls, well-known Martin County farmer, died at his home in Poplar Point Township, near Spring Green, yesterday morning at 11 o'clock following a long illness. He had been in declining health for three years and spent the last three months in bed, the end coming gradually and peacefully. Heart trouble was given as the immediate cause of his death.

The son of the late William and Mary Leggett Rawls, he was born 70 years ago last January in Cross Roads Township where he spent a greater part of his life as a successful farmer. About 1918 he moved to Poplar Point, near Spring Green, where he had since made his home.

He first married Miss Lucy Rawls and from this union he leaves one son, Claude Rawls, of Hamilton. Following the death of his first wife he was married to Miss Christine Mobley who survives with six children, Mrs. Lula Wynne, of Everetts; Mrs. Sallie Taylor, of Jamesville; Mrs. Ollie Gurganus, of Bear Grass; Jesse Ben Rawls and Kader Rawls, of Everetts; and William Albert Rawls, of Poplar Point.

Earning a livelihood by the sweat of his brow, Mr. Rawls was held in high regard by those who knew him. Neighboring in his dealings with his fellowman, he was a friend to all.

Mrs. Nancy Clark Dies Near Everetts

Mrs. Nancy Clark, one of the county's oldest residents, died at the home of her son, Fred Clark, near Everetts yesterday morning at 3 o'clock following a long period of intense suffering from cancer. She had been confined to her bed several months.

The daughter of the late John Clark and wife, she was born in Cross Roads Township about 85 years ago. She was the last member of her immediate family, and leaves only one son, three other children having preceded her to the grave. She was a member of the Everetts Christian Church where the last rites are being conducted this afternoon at two o'clock by her pastor, Rev. J. M. Perry. Interment will follow in the family burial ground on the old home farm in Cross Roads.

Plans Are Advanced For Holding Peanut Referendum Shortly

Believed 98 Percent of Martin Farmers Will Support Soil Program

That approximately 98 per cent of the farmers in this county will participate in the 1941 soil conservation program was almost unmistakably indicated last Friday and Saturday when they reported to their respective committees in the several townships and signed the new farm plans. The sign-up was the largest ever reported in the county in a two-day field canvass. Farmers were said to have shown more interest in the program and its every detail, including the new cotton stamp plan. There was a greater willingness on the part of the farmers to sign up and cooperate with the program. One committee man stated that while the soil conservation payments continue to be recognized as the power behind the program, it is quite apparent that the soil conservation feature is gaining greater recognition, that the conservation of the soil is a basic problem and not a passing fancy.

In some districts hardly 75 per cent of the farmers found it convenient to sign up last Friday and Saturday. Those who did not sign are now reporting to the county agent's office where they will have until the 15th of this month to express their intention of cooperating with the government in promoting the 1941 program.

According to early reports coming from the sign-up, at least 250 Martin County farmers will participate in the cotton-stamp program—that is they plan to take certain cotton acreage out of production in exchange for cotton stamps.

No date has been definitely fixed, but plans are being advanced for holding a referendum on peanut production control. The office of the county agent has been instructed to prepare a register of eligible voters and be ready to hold the referendum upon short notice. It is possible that the question will be placed before the farmers during the week of April 20 and certainly before the last of this month. President Roosevelt is expected to sign the bill today providing peanut production control. Complete details of the bill will be placed before the growers between now and the referendum date. It has been reliably learned that the production schedule under the proposed program will not be changed from the allotments released in connection with the soil conservation program for 1941 and that it will not call for a decrease of more than five per cent in any one of the following two years. It is possible that no reduction will be ordered. The program is for a three-year period.

The bill also specifically states that without production control, no diversion program or a stabilized price will be made available by the government in the future. Despite this warning, there is a reported opposition to the proposed peanut program in some section of the country especially in those areas where the crop is replacing cotton and tobacco. It is now apparent that growers in the old established belts will have to give the program a support approximating 100 per cent if it is to be made effective.

Seed-Feed Loans Have Been Liberalized By Government

Effective immediately the Emergency Crop and Feed Loan Office this week announced a new table of allowances per acre for loans advanced during the remainder of this season. The seed-feed loan office in the Martin County agricultural building will receive loan applications each Monday, Wednesday and Saturday until further notice. Application Taker W. B. Watts said today.

FERTILIZER TESTS

The North Carolina State Department of Agriculture is making plans for testing 1941 fertilizers in Martin and adjoining counties this spring, it was announced this week by a department spokesman. C. Grant, Ahsokie, will handle the tests in this county. Farmers having a ton or more of fertilizer that they desire checked to determine if plant food guarantees are met by the manufacturer should write Inspector Grant at Ahsokie or to the State Department of Agriculture, Raleigh, between now and May 1st.

Draft Call Will Go Out Tomorrow for 10 White Trainees

Ten Colored Men Left Camp This Morning For Camp At Fort Bragg

A call will go out from the Martin County Draft Board tomorrow for ten white trainees, the board chairman, R. H. Goodmon stating that the men are to leave for Fort Bragg on Tuesday, April 8. Ten colored volunteers left here shortly before noon for service at Fort Bragg. The names of the ten colored volunteers leaving this morning: Thomas Lee—Hawkins, Wesley Moore, Jesse Walston, William Louis Riddick, Herbert Louis Peele, Samuel David Slade, John Dee Gainer, Grandy Pemberton, Benson Swanner, Ordele Little.

The following young white men will receive their orders tomorrow directing them to report for service on April 8: Steve Elias Stevenson, Thomas LeRoy Taylor, Robert Bailey, William Robert Crandall, Dallas Gaylord Waters, Eddie Gurley Leggett, John Thomas Mobley, Ben Ollie Coburn, William Daniel Peel, Jimmy Lindsey Dickens. The first three men are volunteers. A report from the draft board clerk today states that the volunteer reserve list has been depleted in its entirety with the current call, and that it looks now as if future quotas will have to be filled from the regular registration list.

Draftees, as a rule, are taking their call to service good naturedly. When asked what division of the service he wanted to enter, Dan Peel, popular local drug store employee, declared that it made no difference. "You don't want to get into the mule division, do you?" was the rather pointed but friendly question. "What do you have to do in the mule division?" he asked. "Why, you have to lead a mule fifteen miles a day," was the reply. "Oh, shoh, that will be a promotion for me. Why, I have followed a mule as much as 23 miles for long seasons, and now I can go to the front," he said, and that was that.

It won't be long before the trainees who left today and those who are leaving next week will be seeing more recruits from home. A call for fifteen colored men to leave on April 17 has already been received. They will be followed by four white men on the 14th. And word from headquarters is to the effect that additional calls are to be expected every ten days until further notice.

Willis Robert Crandall, missing the first order to report for service on March 21 because of a change of address, reported to the draft board two hours before the deadline last week and just as the draft board clerk was preparing a notice of delinquency to the United States prosecuting attorney. The young man, giving up his job in Norfolk, is now visiting near Robertsonville after assuring the draft board he will be ready to report on April 8.

WPA Will Widen Washington Road

Williamston's street improvement program will likely be interrupted about the middle of this month when WPA forces are switched to an assignment under the defense program, according to unofficial information received here this week. The WPA-ers are slated to take a small cement mixer and their wheelbarrows and start widening the Washington Road to the Beaufort County line.

Few details have been released in connection with the road project, and the immediate effect the transfer of forces will have on the town improvement program could not be determined immediately. Local officials are making efforts to have the program continued under private contract, it is understood.

The improvement program has experienced one delay after another for several years. Finances interrupted the program and now that the money has been made available it appears that other obstacles are presenting themselves.

According to one report received here all WPA men in Martin County will be assigned to the road-widening project, and it is possible that men will be taken from the Bertie County WPA rolls.

River Boat Service Resumed Following Flood Interruption

Loaded with 150 tons of fertilizer and captained by Captain Owens, the Eldora Nye restored freight service on the Roanoke at this point last Saturday morning at 9 o'clock. The restoration was about 18 hours behind announced schedule, but Captain Owens explained that he had not been on the Roanoke in fifteen years and that he delayed the trip until early Saturday morning after remaining tied up near Jamesville over night.

Operating under special charter of the Norfolk, Baltimore and Carolina Line, the Eldora Nye will maintain two schedules between here and Norfolk each week until new equipment can be installed in one of the line's regular boats.

Mayor J. L. Hassell went down to meet the boat Friday afternoon and inspect the warehouse repairs made necessary by the high flood waters last August. He waited only a short time however, and while there was no official program marking the resumption of the service, shippers started making arrangements for moving added volumes of freight over the river line.

Captain Owens, telling about his delay, stated that the last time he navigated the Roanoke he brought a load of Ford automobiles here for distribution throughout eastern Carolina. "We unloaded as far as I can recall, more than 100 automobiles." Until recently Captain Owens had been moving sugar by the boatload from Jacksonville, Fla., to Norfolk.

More Registrants Are Classified In County

123 Out Of 425 Men Grouped in Class I By Board Monday

Classifications Are Subject To Appeals and Physical Examinations

Meeting in a special session and in anticipation of increased quotas during the latter part of this month and May, the Martin County Draft Board last night classified 425 registrants. Out of the number, 123 were placed in Class I. Of the 123 men falling into the No. 1 classification, 43 were white and 80 were colored. While the reserve of colored selectees continues to grow, it is fairly apparent that the white list after being built up by the draft board is hardly large enough to fill the quotas expected during the remainder of this month and May. It is expected that the board will meet again shortly for the classification of those registrants who are now preparing and returning their questionnaires. The draft board office has been instructed to continue sending out questionnaires at the rate of 50 each day until further orders.

The No. 1 classifications are subject to change, draft officials explaining that the status of the registrants may have been altered by certain events and that reclassification will be considered upon appeal by the registrant. It is apparent that some of the registrants have married since last October and failed to advise the draft board of their status change. The names of those men appear in the No. 1 class, and if they are to be re-classified they must appeal to the draft board before induction orders are issued. The No. 1 classifications are also subject to physical examination. No. 1 classifications follow, in order of call:

- Class 1—White James Edward Warren, Robertsonville, Route 2; Willard Wrayvaughn Carson, Parmele; Herbert Elverson Rogerson, Robertsonville; William Henry Gurkin, Williamston Route 1; George Wilson Moore, Jamesville Route 1; James Gussie Rogerson, Oak City Route 1; Lester Bryan Edmondson, Robertsonville; George Washington Farmer, Robertsonville Route 1; Ben Cross, Oak City Route 1; Kelly Warren, Robertsonville Route 2; Robert Lee Diekerson, Williamston Route 1; Charlie Rogers, Robertsonville Route 1; Thomas Whittington Crockett, Williamston; Dixie Dawe Robertson, Ahsokie; Joseph Alexander Martin, Jamesville Route 1; Luther Hugh Hardison, Jamesville; Robert Taylor, Williamston Route 2; Eurus Mayo Vanderford, Williamston; Elcever Smith Robertson, Robertsonville; Charlie Gilbert Mobley, Williamston Route 1; Simon Stalls, Robertsonville; Hugh Burras Bailey, Williamston Route 2; William Atwood Gurganus, Williamston Route 1; Nathaniel Coltrain, Williamston Route 1; John Robert Whitehurst, Oak City Route 1; John Ivey Eagles, Williamston; Carl Jordan Martin, Jamesville; Thomas Gordon Robertson, Robertsonville; Exum Louis Ward, Jr., Williamston Route 3; Ellis Hugh B. Moore, Williamston; Paul Mayo Barber, Jamesville Route 1; Dalton Rogerson, Williamston Route 2; Dennis Robus Coltrain, Williamston; William Henry Bland, Palmyra Route 1; Wesley Williams, Jamesville; Gar-

R. B. Spruill Arrested Following A Wild Ride

R. B. Spruill, colored man, was arrested by Chief W. B. Daniel here last Sunday afternoon following a week-end of wild riding. Spruill, driving a large truck and trailer belonging to Elton Andrews, endangered the lives of several people as he drove the machine at a rapid speed on Washington Street.

The man was thought to have partaken freely of fortified wines, but officers could not tell whether he was drunk or sober at the time the arrest was made.

Man's Body Taken From the Roanoke After Two Months

Eddie Moore, Negro, Drowned at Jamesville On January 29th

The body of Eddie Moore, young Jamesville colored man who lost his life in the Roanoke River at Jamesville on last January 29, was found in the stream four miles below the town last Sunday afternoon by Charlie Ellis. Moore fell from a log barge at the plant of the Foreman-Blades Lumber Company in Jamesville. Feeble efforts to recover the body at that time failed, and it was believed by some that the man merely deserted his job and went away to unannounced points.

The body, just beginning to decompose, was found with an arm hooked around a stump near the Bertie County bank of the river. When discovered by Ellis and a companion, the body could not be identified. Ellis reporting at Jamesville that whatever it was it had an overalls. A party from Jamesville recovered the body and officers were notified. The man's pocketbook containing a \$10 bill, a dime and a nickel and his automobile driver's license and social security card, was found on the body. The printing and writing on the card were discernible.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow in the Jamesville church. Moore, employed by the Foreman-Blades Lumber Company, was working with Eugene Singleton and David Stancill unloading an old log barge at the company's mill. Singleton was working on top of the pile of logs, Stancill on the shore side and Moore was stationed on the river side. Moore and Stancill would fasten cables around the ends of the logs and Singleton connected the cable into a crane hook. Neither worker could hardly see the other and one's absence could not be easily detected. A batch of logs was lifted from the

seizure of Italian and German merchant ships in this country may have far-reaching effect in the future, but the practice is gaining popularity, a late report stating that Cuba, Peru and Venezuela had seized several ships. President Roosevelt is expected to make some announcement today in connection with the disposition of the ships seized in American ports.

Mexico and the United States today agreed to the joint use of air bases in this country and in Mexico.

President Roosevelt is expected to take a hand in the coal strike called this morning and also in the old Allis-Chalmers strike. Disturbances were reported in the coal mine strike this morning when a miner in Harlan County, Kentucky, was shot. Racketeering in the labor ranks is facing tough sledding, and it has been pointed out that unless labor clears its own house, the entire movement is headed for more trouble.

Man Injured In Car Wreck Last Sunday

Fred Lindsey Blackman, young white man of Jacksonville and Enfield, was painfully but not seriously cut and bruised on his head in an automobile accident between Hamilton and Oak City last Sunday afternoon. Said to have been forced off the road by another motorist on a curve about two miles out of Hamilton, Blackman lost control of his car which plowed down a ditch a long distance and across several stumps before cutting in two a telephone pole and coming to a stop. Blackman, driving an old model car, was thrown partly through the windshield but despite his injuries he was able to walk away from the wreck.

Tough Sledding For The Axis Powers In The Past Few Days

Developments in Yugoslav-German Situation Believed Near At Hand

Experiencing one set-back after another from one end of the war front to the other during the past few days, the Axis powers are now facing a grave situation in the Balkans, indicating that a turning point in the struggle may have been reached or will have been reached before the month is spent.

One of the most telling blows of the war was dealt the Italian navy last Friday night when Mussolini's sea power was all but destroyed. The British navy sunk five warships and damaged several others including the 35,000 ton battleship, Littorio.

Coming through without a loss with the exception of two planes, the British estimate that 1,000 Italian seamen lost their lives in the two-hour encounter. Trapped by the British and routed during the dark hours between 10 and midnight Friday, the Italians are believed to have fired on their own ships.

While the British navy was dealing a telling blow to the Italians in the Mediterranean, the Royal Air Force was scoring successes on the invasion ports along the channel. The two German raiders operating in the Atlantic not so far from American shores were said to have been in line of the air attack, but no direct hits were reported. London has been free of attack by German airmen during the past eleven nights, but several northeast coast towns were bombed, one destroying a newspaper office and possibly alleviating some poor editor's worry.

Yusuke Matsuoka, Japan's foreign minister, had his visit to Berlin and Rome perfectly timed by the Allies. He reached Berlin just in time to learn about Yugoslavia's about face and in Rome just in time to hear about Mussolini's distressing trouble in the Mediterranean.

While some believe Germany has not recovered from the slap in the face administered by Yugoslavia, it is thought in other quarters that Hitler is rapidly preparing for an invasion. Late reports state that there is little likelihood of a peaceful settlement even with Rome offering to serve as mediator, and that Yugoslavia is face to face with invasion that can be expected at any time. Germany is massing troops, including paratroopers, in strategic positions, and Yugoslavia is showing every sign of a planned resistance. One report states that Britain's Foreign Minister Anthony Eden and General Dill, chief of the imperial staff, are conferring with Yugoslavia leaders in Belgrade today with the possibility that British aid will be sent to help Yugoslavia against German attack.

What was described as a new type of bomb was introduced last night by the British over Bremen where they started fires that could be seen 120 miles away.

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Meekins Continues Five County Cases

The prosecution was not quite ripe and five of the ten new cases docketed from this county were continued in federal court at Washington yesterday by Judge I. M. Meekins. The trial of one or two Martin County cases continued from a previous term was started this morning. Cases charging J. R. Cherry, Jas. H. Taylor, Toby Bowen, James and Cecil Phippen with violating the Internal Revenue Act in one way or another, were continued in the court yesterday.

Walter Pierce and Will "Red" Rogers were sentenced to the roads for eighteen-months terms, and Robert Bailey drew a year and a day in Atlanta, the sentence to begin next October.