

Governor Appoints Goodman Head Of United Service Unit

To Meet Governor This Week For Discussion Of Plans For Organization

Raymond H. Goodman, already titled with a number of public jobs offering no remuneration, has been called to service again. This time he has been named Martin County chairman for United Service Organization Work, the appointment coming from Governor J. M. Broughton last week-end.

The following letter received by Mr. Goodman from R. M. Hanes, State Chairman, explains the appointment and the work of the new organization:

"Governor Broughton has notified me that he has appointed you chairman for your county for the purpose of organizing the work of the United Service Organizations. I earnestly hope, with him, that you will accept this call to service. I know you will agree with me that every man and woman who is not directly connected with our armed forces should have some part in supporting those who have been called to the colors.

"The United Service Organizations is a merger of the activities, for war work, of the Y.M.C.A., the National Catholic Community Service, the Salvation Army, the Y.W.C.A., the Jewish Welfare Board, and the National Travelers Aid Association. This cooperation effort will eliminate competition and duplication of effort which were prevalent in the last war, reduce expense and increase efficiency.

"The Government gives the boys in service every care while on the military reservation, but when they leave on week-ends to visit nearby towns, which in many cases are very small and unable to provide wholesome recreation facilities and sufficient religious environment, they therefore become victims of 'juke joints,' 'trailer palaces,' bootleg shacks, and other places of the lowest order. The United Service Organizations proposes to change these conditions by offering, in buildings and on grounds provided by the Government, wholesome and decent leisure-time activities and a homelike atmosphere, to the end that our boys may return to their homes improved physically, mentally and in character.

"This movement was initiated at the request of the President of the United States, backed by the full support of the War and Navy Departments. I know you will feel that you should have a part in this most important work and that you will meet Governor Broughton and the national leaders of this movement at the Sid Walter Hotel, Raleigh, 10:30 a. m., May 22, where full details and information will be made available to you. I hope that you will not only come, but will bring with you as many outstanding citizens in your county as possible, together with a representative from each of the participating agencies in this movement, post commanders of the American Legion, and ministers.

"The need for service is great, the call is yours, and I am sure you will not fail the Governor."

Three-way Race For Congressional Seat

Early developments on the First Congressional political front indicate that a warm battle is in the offing for congressman from this district. Following Herbert Leary's formal announcement of his candidacy ten days ago, M. K. Blount, well known Greenville attorney and business man, tossed his hat into the ring last week-end. Herbert Bonner, who took over the post made vacant last year by Lindsay Warren's resignation, is admittedly in the race.

Announcing his candidacy, Mr. Blount pointed out that it was Pitt County's time to have the post, that the county had not been represented in Congress by one of its sons in half a century. No official statement has been issued by Mr. Blount in connection with his candidacy other than that he did say "that the congressman chosen next year should come from Pitt County" and that it was his intention to make the race.

Storm Does Little Damage In County

A wind and hail storm, sweeping over a large section of eastern Carolina last Saturday evening, did no great damage in this county. Other areas were hard hit, Goldsboro, Greenville, Kinston and other towns and rural communities reporting substantial losses caused by wind and hail. Heavy showers were reported in some areas, but in others the rain hardly laid the dust.

The wind centered in this county around Bear Grass and J. Eason Lilly's in Griffiths Township. A shelter top was blown off and the porch of a home was torn from its moorings. The damage was not extensive, and hail falling in a few sections of the county caused no great damage to crops.

Dates For Completing Local Projects Are Tentatively Set

Dates for completing work on Williamston's street improvement program and an addition to its water supply were tentatively fixed yesterday. While the dates are subject to change, the representatives of the two contracting firms stated that under normal weather conditions the street project should be completed the early part of June and that the deep well will be supplying water within seven or eight weeks provided no obstacles present themselves.

"We are making a slow start, but with good weather and 'luck' we should be pumping water out of the deep well early in July," C. H. Brown, representative of the Layne-Atlantic Company and superintendent of the project here, said yesterday. Mr. Brown explained that it

was difficult to get material, that his company brought piping from a branch office in George Sunday, but that most of the equipment would be furnished by the Norfolk depot. Work on the derrick for handling the drills is almost completed, and by the latter part of next week the outcome of the test well should be determined, Mr. Brown explaining that a test is made before work on the main well is started.

Work on the street project is progressing rapidly. Representative Hottel of the J. M. Gregory Contracting firm, stating yesterday that the foundations for the surfacing will be ready on or about the second day of June, that only a few days will be required to complete the work.

Owners are asked not to park their cars on the streets to be surfaced during the next two weeks.

Defense Movement Is Looking to the Farm

NO MEETING

Organized some time ago in an effort to start a back-to-church movement, the Williamston Greater Church Association after remaining idle for several months, made a feeble attempt last night to pump new life into its own veins, but did not succeed. The group with three of the ministers missing and with only two or three laymen reporting went no further than the church steps. After waiting the greater part of an hour, the group dispersed.

Disturbed over the ever-decreasing attendance upon the church services, local ministers and interested laymen several months ago organized the Williamston Greater Church Association. The organization has not been very active for one reason or another, and its accomplishments have been limited.

Bible School Holds Closing Program In The Baptist Church

Daily Collections Are Donated To Red Cross For British Refugee Children

By J. H. SMITH
Principal of School

Friday night's program in the Baptist Church marked the close of a very successful two weeks' Daily Vacation Bible School. The members of the faculty recommended in the last teachers' meeting that we try to have the school on this same date next year and suggested that we would need more helpers than volunteered their services this year.

The offering this year is given through the Red Cross to the British refugee children. The boys and girls came each day to worship God with their offerings and the small daily gifts amounted to more than thirty-one dollars—a pint of pennies and nearly a pint of silver.

Below is a statistical report and the honor roll:

Total enrollment, 190; average attendance, 141; largest attendance for a day, 170; smallest attendance for a day, 139; number in perfect attendance, 67; total number of teachers and helpers, 15; total cost of school, \$19.80 (\$4.95 for each church); total amount of offering, \$33.44.

We are thankful to each one who had a part in making our school a success. Next year, Rev. John L. Goff will be in charge. Let us hope for an even better school than we had this year.

Perfect Attendance Honor Roll

Beginners: Bobby Coburn, Billy Glover, Joseph Wobblenton, Frankie Everett, Frankie Daniel, Ann Gresham, Jessie Marie Corey, Janice Manning, Mary Elizabeth Britton, Ann Peel.

Primaries: Lila Rose Gray, Louise Corey, Harriett Ward, Marie Peel, William Manning, Keith Boyd, V. L. Moore, Jackie Harris, Betty R. Taylor, Mary Ann Williams, Janie Sybil Beach, Betsy Horton, Elizabeth Cowan, Lindell Ward, Harrell Everett, Jr., Jimmy Osteen, David Nash, Harriett Peel, Betty Gwen Watson, Beverly Daniel, Mary Ann Manning.

Juniors: Betty Sue Clark, Elizabeth Manning, Dorothy Peel, George Moore, William Burroughs, Kenneth Lindsey, Landy Griffin, Mildred Wobblenton, Lolo Peel, Peggy Ann Balder, Polly Manning, Julian Mason, Hilton Peel, J. D. Hines, Dorothy Andrews, Rosa Marie Hatten, Dorothy Chesson, Joan Anne Peel, Warren Goff, Pritchard Lindsey, Rush Bonduant, Frank Earl Wynne, A. S. Manning, Louise Griffin, Sylvia Green, Elizabeth Taylor, Charles Siccioff, Margaret Ward.

Intermediates: Jane Goff, Betsy Manning, Charles Hines, Jimmy Waters, Dora Twiddy, Helen Weaver, Alberta Knox.

Ask Adequate Food Supply For Meeting In A War Emergency

Martin County Farmers and Farm Women Urged To Take Part In Program

Without offering to excite anyone, national leaders are appealing to all classes to join together in meeting the grave situation facing this nation and the world, the latest appeal being directed to the farmers and farm wives, the groups who form the backbone of the nation.

The authorities do not say so in so many words, but there is some reason to believe that this nation is heading into a food and feed shortage. If the needs of starving peoples in other lands are met, the supply in this nation will be virtually exhausted.

In a meeting of agricultural workers held in the county agricultural building here yesterday, the seriousness of the situation as it applies to food and feed was not mentioned. The group, one of thousands to meet throughout the country, did approach the problem from the standpoint that should an emergency present itself it could be handled, and at the same time effect a better diet for all people.

There is a nation-wide movement being advanced to get all farm families to make themselves virtually independent upon others for foods and feeds. In this county, as in other counties of North Carolina, farmers, large and small and white and colored, are being asked to cooperate in the program, to pledge their efforts in the movement to meet any national emergency that may arise. Pledge cards, carrying no stipulated responsibility other than by voluntary action, are being placed in the hands of about 3,000 farmers in this county. Every farmer is asked and urged to read the card carefully and decide whether he is ready and willing to help meet the great emergency now facing this country. Committees are being named in the several townships to assist any one in filling in the cards. Farmers are asked to contact the committee members or a representative of the home or county agent's office and act in support of the program.

Any farm family preserving 75 per cent of its food supply will get recognition from the governor of the State.

The farmer, signing one of the cards, promises to: 1. Produce adequate food to feed all people living on the farm. This means a garden of at least 1-10 acre per person, milk and poultry products, a meat supply and conserving of surplus foods.

(Continued on page six)

Following a siege that kept wardens going night and day for more than a week last month, forest fires broke out in the county again last week, but on a comparatively small scale.

Several Forest Fires Reported In County

County Warden Marvin Leggett said yesterday that two small fires were reported, that no great damage resulted. Thought to have been fired by a train, fire burned over about 15 acres on the C. A. Hough farm in Jamesville Township.

The second fire, believed to have been started by a careless smoker, burned over about 30 acres belonging to Henry C. Norman in Cross Roads Township.

Forest fires, burning later than usual for the season of the year, have caused extensive damage in other areas during the past few days, but they have been well controlled in this county by the forest protection service and by a cooperating public.

Big Battle Raging On Island of Crete Following Invasion

More Than 10,000 Germans Said To Have Used Gliders To Reach Island

A furious battle was reported to be raging on the little Greek island of Crete in the Mediterranean this morning, following an invasion of more than 10,000 German soldiers by parachutes, transport planes and gliders. No news of the battle could be gained, but it was declared that the Nazis were striking with force and possibly cutting out a pattern for the invasion attempt on the British Isles later on.

British, New Zealand and Greek troops are defending the island where the Greek government officials took refuge following the invasion of their country. The number of troops engaged in the defense of the island, a strategic spot in the Mediterranean area, was not disclosed. It was the first time in history that gliders have been used by the enemy in invading another's territory. The estimates of the number of German soldiers flying down on the island ranged as high as 12,000 men, but the amount and nature of equipment carried with them were not revealed. In addition to the attack led by the soldiers who made the 70-mile sea hop, German airmen were said to be pounding the territory after a furious fashion. The outlook was described in some quarters as serious for the island defenders.

While the combined forces were defending Crete, the British, with the aid of DeGaulle's Free French, are trying to bring the Iraq situation under control before material aid can be sent there by Germany. The Free French forces were said to have used effectively American-made planes in the attack on German air bases in Syria and Iraq.

There were the week-end bombings, but the war in the air over England has been comparatively quiet during the past day or two. The battle of the Atlantic grows more serious day by day, the Germans claiming they had sent to the bottom during the past 24 hours more than 45,000 tons of British shipping.

The fight in Ethiopia is about over for the Wops, and the British can now repair to Africa to take part in the fight against the Germans there.

No startling developments have been reported over a wide war front, but the general situation, it is generally believed, is rapidly becoming more serious not only for Britain but for this country also. Every effort is being made to warn the American people about the dangers ahead without undue alarm of excitement. The French position, swinging from one point to the other extreme, is causing much concern, and it is fairly apparent that French leaders such as ageing Pétain and obstinate Darlan are anxious for a German victory. France has said that she will fight if the United States moves to take over Martinique and other French possessions in this part of the world, meaning that Germany will recognize it as an act of war.

In this country there are repeated reports about industrialists refusing to withdraw aid to Germany on account of the possibility of "hurting" business.

President Roosevelt is making (Continued on page six)

Mrs. A. C. Currie Passes In Hospital

Mrs. A. C. Currie, well known resident of Jamesville Township, died in a Washington hospital yesterday afternoon at 12:30 o'clock following an illness of only a few weeks duration. She had been in the hospital for treatment two weeks, the exact cause of her death not being determined. Subjected suddenly to a terrible cough about two months ago, Mrs. Currie was forced to her bed. Her condition improved, but she suffered a relapse a little over two weeks ago and was removed to the hospital.

The daughter of the late J. B. Whitehurst and wife, Mrs. Currie was born in Pitt County 57 years ago. She married Mr. Currie in 1912 and after spending a number of years in Halifax County she and her family located in this county near Jamesville where she made many friends. She was a member of the Methodist Church, having affiliated with that denomination when a young girl.

Besides her husband she leaves five children, H. G. Currie, of Jamesville; D. A. Currie of the U. S. Army stationed at Camp Lee, Va.; W. T. Currie, of Jamesville; Mrs. A. E. Deining, of Contoocook, N. H.; and Miss Grace Currie, of Jamesville. She also leaves one sister, Mrs. John Cherry, of Stokes, and five brothers, David Whitehurst, of Spec; L. F. Whitehurst, of Hobgood; Robert Whitehurst, of Bethel; Ed Whitehurst, of Greenville; and Zeb B. Whitehurst, of Robersonville.

Funeral services are being conducted this afternoon at 3 o'clock at the home of her brother, Mr. L. F. Whitehurst, in Hobgood. Interment will follow in the cemetery there.

Crime Front Marked by Peace And Quietness in the County

Peace and quiet have marked the crime front in this county during the past several days, according to a report released yesterday by Sheriff C. B. Roebuck. Two or three drunks were jailed over the week-end and there is evidence that the illicit liquor business continues operations. Two of the illicit plants were wrecked and a man was arrested at a still in the Free Union Section of Jamesville Township early Sunday.

"For the first time in several days we have received no crime reports, not even one relating to chicken stealing, shop-lifting or other petty crimes," the high sheriff declared. The officer was of the opinion that last week was one of the dulllest for crime of any like period since he has been in office.

Unable to offer any detailed explanation for the inactivity on the crime front, the sheriff is of the opinion that nearly everyone is employ-

ed, that the devil has few workshops in idle minds, and that the needs of many are not so urgent that they are forced to resort to stealing. Their bodies tired from increased toil in the fields, factories and other places of employment, those guys who enjoy a rough-house or act without thinking, as a rule, have remained peaceful in recent days.

That crime is shrinking up for the present, at least, is also indicated in the size of the county court criminal docket. A lone case was scheduled for trial Monday, and the session was ended in less than ten minutes.

"You can never tell, however," the sheriff sighed, explaining that the lid may blow off at any time and cause the common jail to be filled to overflowing.

A late unofficial report not included in the sheriff's crime summary, tells of a \$200 feed warehouse robbery in Robersonville last Saturday night.

Prisoner Is Almost Suffocated In Jail Fire Early Sunday

Leon Hall Rawls Removed From Cell In Unconscious Condition

Leon Hall Rawls, young county white man, was almost suffocated by smoke from a burning mattress and blanket in the county jail here early last Sunday morning, officers of the night watch declaring that they thought the prisoner was dying at one time soon after he had been removed from his cell.

Removed from the smoked cell in an unconscious condition, Rawls did not recover consciousness for about an hour. Officers, calling a doctor to the jail, worked with the man, applying cold towels to his face and head. His condition was much improved and he was able to mumble a few words when medical aid reached him. His recovery was fairly rapid after that and he was released under bond later in the day. While he carried the smell of burned cotton in his system, his condition was said to be fairly normal when he left the jail.

Charged with being drunk and disorderly, Rawls after being warned by police to go ahead home, was jailed by Officers John Roebuck and John Gurganus about 5 o'clock Sunday morning. He was said to have threatened the life of a man at a filling station after he had received the warning. According to reports, the arresting police were subjected to a heavy bombardment of curse words and threats. Regaining consciousness after the smoke ordeal, Rawls talked humbly, but it was said at the time he was released he declared that he would never be jailed alive again, that he was going to be prepared next time.

Details of the fire could not be learned, and while it is possible that he fired the mattress accidentally, it is thought by some he fired mattress and blanket intentionally. When the smoke began to form, Rawls yelled for help. "I am stifling to death," he cried. Mrs. Roy Peel, the jailer's wife, opened the blind door to the fire-proof cell and town officers, in the temporary absence of the jailer, answered the call for help. They reached him just about the time he lost consciousness. "I thought he was going to choke to death," Officer Gurganus said, adding that the ordeal apparently helped sober him up.

Rawls, said to be dependable when sober, acts with little discretion when under the influence of liquor, it was explained.

A hearing in the case is scheduled tonight before Justice J. L. Hassell.

Mother Of Local Man Died Friday

Mrs. Lillian Harris, mother of Mr. J. W. Garris, of Williamston, died at her home in Suffolk last Friday night at 11 o'clock following a long illness. Suffering a stroke of paralysis about eight months ago, she had been quite ill since that time.

Funeral services were conducted in Beechwood Cemetery, Boykins, Va., Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock by Rev. E. B. Loreing, assisted by Rev. N. H. Davis, of Suffolk.

Besides her son here, she is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Lillian G. Colinsky, with whom she made her home for a number of years in Norfolk, and a son, Paul J. Garris, of Suffolk. She also leaves three sisters, Mrs. J. R. Daugherty, of Norfolk; Mrs. Fannie V. Bryant, of Courtland, Va.; and Mrs. J. T. Turner, of Boykins; a brother, Patrick T. Person, of Boykins; and one granddaughter, Lillian Jeanette Garris, of Suffolk. Mrs. Harris was a former prominent citizen of Southampton County, Va., and a member of Branch Methodist Church where she had a host of friends.

Among those from here attending the funeral were Messrs. Bill Glover, Hal Dickens, George Mahler and Tom Rose.

Former Local Man On Ship Sunk By German Sea Raider

Passengers and Crew Believed Safe In German Occupied Territory

The real meaning of the war was brought closer home to many people early yesterday morning when the sinking of the Egyptian ocean liner, "Zamzam," was reported torpedoed somewhere in the South Atlantic Ocean by the Germans with 120 American passengers, including a number of North Carolinians and a former local man, Ned Laughinghouse, on board. The first report heard on the sinking stated that the ship had been torpedoed and that there were only 65 survivors.

Contradictory reports have been received since that time, some maintaining that the ship had not been sunk up until late Sunday, and that while no report had been received, the boat was still believed to be safe. At the insistence of Senator Josiah W. Bailey, the State Department contacted the British Admiralty and operators of the New York-African line. No definite news could be had, but the reports were fairly hopeful.

Early today a report was received stating that the liner had been halted, crew and passengers removed and the ship sent to the bottom of the ocean. The report also stated that the crew and passengers were safe in German occupied territory, meaning that they can be in any one of many places in nearly half of the world.

As far as it could be learned here early this afternoon, no direct reports have been received by relatives from any of the passengers. Ned Laughinghouse, Sr., former resident of Williamston and who is well known throughout this section, was aboard the ill-fated steamer enroute to Salisbury, Rhodesia, South Africa, where he was to work on the tobacco market this season. Mrs. Laughinghouse, greatly disturbed by the reports, was quite hopeful at her home in Wilson today. While no direct word had been received from Mr. Laughinghouse, she believed he was safe.

Mr. Laughinghouse was accompanied by five other Wilson men, Thomas D. Miller, William Johnson, Paul Burton, Harry Cawthorne and James Smith, the latter one from South Boston, Va. The six men left New York on March 25 and were last heard from at Pernambuco, Brazil.

Following the first report which stated that the ship had been torpedoed and that only 65 of the 120 American passengers were saved, several theories were advanced. One was that the ship was sunk by a surface raider of the axis and that the passengers were taken on board while another was that the survivors got in a lifeboat and were picked up and taken to an out of the way African coastal port where they could not communicate with the outside world.

The United States consul general at Alexandria, Egypt, said the 120 (Continued on page six)

Speed Up Work On Roanoke Fill Here

After dragging along week after week during the greater part of the past eight months, work on the Roanoke River fill at this point is being advanced more rapidly with the unofficial promise that the dirt and bridge projects will be completed in early July. The dirt contractors are now operating two loading units and today between 20 and 30 trucks were dumping dirt on the road. Operations were interrupted for short periods the latter part of last week and again yesterday when a part on the elevating grader broke. Repairs were made as rapidly as possible, and today the work was being advanced on a busy schedule.

The dynamiting task to settle several hundred feet of dirt on the eastern end of the fill from the last bridge to the Bertie high land was completed yesterday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock and the flow of usual traffic was resumed.

Army Calling For More County Boys

Another call for Martin County boys has been received by the draft board, indicating that the lads are fitting in very well with Uncle Sam's defense program as it centers around the armed forces. Ten white young men are to be included in the group scheduled to leave on June 3.

On Thursday of this week, ten colored boys leave for Fort Bragg. The group includes the first eight men to be called from the regular draft list. Next Tuesday four young white men, William Ernest Davis who is better known as "Cotton"; Marion Oscar Hyman, Joseph Brake Roberson and Cushing Biggs Bailey, are scheduled to leave for Fort Bragg.

Anticipating calls for increased numbers of trainees, the county draft board will meet Friday night at 8 o'clock for the classification of more registrants.



Marvin K. Blount, prominent Greenville attorney and business man and well known in this section, last week-end announced his candidacy for membership in the National House of Representatives from this, the First Congressional District.

Respected Citizen Passes In Griffiths Sunday Afternoon

Last Rites Conducted Monday Afternoon For Mrs. Cornelia Lilley

Mrs. Cornelia Lilley, one of Griffiths Township's oldest natives and a highly respected citizen, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. S. J. Lilley, there Sunday afternoon at 5 o'clock. She had been in declining health for a number of months, the infirmities of age exacting their toll gradually during that time.

The daughter of the late John Alfred and Martha L. Peel Griffin, she was born in Griffiths Township on October 9, 1860. In early womanhood she married Bennett Lilley. Her second marriage was to Daniel Lilley.

As a tiny infant she experienced the hardships growing out of war and later out of reconstruction. Those experiences gained in her tender years no doubt taught her to share the sorrows of others, to make her wishes and likes secondary to those of her family and fellowman. Her walk through life, while unpretentious, served as a guiding example for others to follow. She held no leading position in any movement, but as a part of any movement for good, her presence and support were of great value. She humbly walked before her Master, and her simple manner and genuine friendship endeared her to all. She was a member of the Primitive Baptist Church for about 18 years.

Besides her daughter with whom she made her home, she is survived by three children, Mrs. C. W. Gurnkin, Mrs. J. A. Revels, and Perlie Lilley, all of this county. She also leaves one brother, Alonza D. Griffin, of Griffiths Township.

Funeral services were conducted yesterday afternoon at the late home by Elders B. S. Cowin and A. B. Ayers. Interment was in the Lilley Cemetery, near the home.

Firemen Get Two Calls Last Friday

Idle for several weeks, members of the local volunteer fire department were called to action on two fronts about the same time last Friday afternoon. The first call came when a blazing fire broke out in the town's trash dump on East Church Street. While pouring water there, the firemen were called to Abbott's mill which was reported burning. Leaving a hose connected direct to the hydrant for the trash fire, the firemen moved to the mill on the Hamilton Road and helped bring the fire under control there before it reached the main mill house. Water was taken from the pond at the mill. Very little damage was reported.