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## Ten Colored Youths Leave This County Thursday For Army

### Draft Board To Classify More Registrants at Meeting Here Tonight

The volunteer list virtually exhausted, the first young colored men to be drafted for army service offered no objections to the call yesterday morning when they boarded a bus with two volunteers for Fort Bragg. If the eight draftees had a care in the world, it was not to be noticed in their acts or expressions. In fact, the group showed every willingness to do the bidding of their government in the name of defense of country.

Holding order No. 21, William Degraffenreid was the first colored man to be drafted into service from this county. He would have answered the roll call last fall had there been no volunteers to take his place, but the patriotic lads aided him in keeping out of the army for six or seven months. Degraffenreid is from Chapel Hill. He came to this county not so long ago to work in a lumber plant at Jamesville.

Several sections of the county were represented in the group of ten who left yesterday morning for the army fort. Their names are, Euphrates Eugene Singleton, Jamesville; George Henry Forrest, Robersonville; Francis Lucious Thomas, Hassell; Louis Embor Ruffin, Williamston; Isaac Cornelius Sutton, Jamesville; Worley James Dardens; Thomas Edwards and William Degraffenreid, of Chapel Hill; William Henry Boston, Dardens, and Thomas Ryan, Williamston. Sutton and Ryan were the only two volunteers in the group.

The first Martin County colored native to be drafted into service was Francis Lucious Thomas, of Hassell. Next Tuesday, four white draftees leave for Fort Bragg. Ten more white youths are slated to leave on June 3rd.

The county draft board, meeting here tonight, will classify several hundred registrants, and order medical examinations in preparation for more quota assignments next month. There are approximately 700 questionnaires to be reviewed for the classification of registrants in this county. The distribution of questionnaires has been delayed pending the receipt of additional printed forms from the government.

While the present draft machinery continues to turn at a fairly rapid speed, changes in the Selective Service Act are being considered. According to reports, war department officials favor a lowering of the draft age to include men 18 years of age up to and including those 25 years old. It is understood that an act of Congress will be necessary before the present system can be changed, meaning that it will be several weeks or months before a change if any will be made.

An unofficial check is not available just at this time, but it is estimated that Martin County now has around 400 men in the nation's armed forces, including those young men who volunteered their services.

## Local High School Band To Appear in Concert Next Week

### Special Program To Be Held Under Lights Here On May 28th

Bringing to a close their first year of training, members of the local high school band will appear in a public concert under lights at the local ball park next Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock. The Edenton band was to have appeared in concert with the local musicians, but Director McCullers stated a few days ago that on account of the uncertainty of travel over the river fill, and because a few of the band members would be on vacation, it would not be advisable to participate. Director Butler of the local band has rearranged the program and will offer an hour of real entertainment for the audience.

Members of the local band are: Cornets: Frances Jarman, Courtney Jenkins, Louise Griffin, Hugh Horton, Jr., Billy Mercer, Alberta Swain, Anne Lindsley, Lola Peele, Lib Taylor, Betty Sue Clark, Betsy Manning;

Clarinet: Jack Bailey, Fred Hardison, John Whitley, Joe Wynne, Anne Meador, Carrie Dell Wobbleton, Hal Dickens, Zack Piephoff, Jack Booker, Bruce Powell Rogerson;

Altos: James Carrow, John Goff, Simon Perry, Reuben Williams;

Baritone: Eliza Daniel, Jimmie Leggett, Susie Revels;

Trombones: Milton Moore, Billy Peele, J. B. Taylor, Jr., Billy Waters;

Bass: Howell Peele;

Drum Majorettes: Anne Fowden, head drum majorette; Della Jane Mobbly, Mary Warren, Rose Leggett, Sylvia Green.

## Crop Outlook in the County Darkened by Adverse Weather

Unfavorable weather during the past few days has darkened the outlook for tobacco farmers in this county, some of the growers declaring that the situation—as it existed yesterday—was becoming serious. While there are a few bright spots on the farm for some crops, the situation, as a whole, is not at all encouraging, one farmer was quoted as saying yesterday.

Troubled by cold weather and the prospects as of March, farmers then experienced an almost ideal season for transplanting their tobacco crops. Perfect or near-perfect stands were generally reported in late April and in early May. Dry weather has since reversed the picture, and in some instances, farmers are resetting the crops in their entirety. It is estimated that on an average 20 per cent of the crop has been reset in the county. One Bear Grass farmer, delayed by blue mold, finished transplanting his crop only last Saturday. Last reports state that nearly all of

the plants died. Quite a few farmers are busy resetting their crops, and the season for that work is getting late. In those cases where normal stands were reported, the crop is growing very little, some of the farmers believing that the plants will harden and "button out" prematurely. Favorable weather conditions from now on will alter the outlook considerably, but just now tobacco farmers are disturbed over the crop prospects.

A fairly good stand of cotton is reported over the county as a whole. The corn crop is doing well, and peanuts planted early in the season are growing fairly rapidly. Late plantings, however, have not come up, and in quite a few cases soybeans will have to be replanted for a stand. Gardens are drying up and even the fruit trees are failing. The rain falling last Saturday night hardly laid the dust in some sections, but crops are doing fairly well where a heavier fall was reported.

### CHECK TAX DODGERS

A final check to round-up tax dodgers in this county will be effected next Monday when the several list-takers meet with Commissioner C. D. Carstarphen for a study of a long list of suspects. Every effort is being made not to accuse any one unjustly, but at the same time equally strenuous efforts are being made to run down the tax dodger, willful or otherwise.

Commissioner Carstarphen estimates that there are between 750 and 1,000 persons in this county who should have but who did not list their holdings or poll for 1941 taxation.

## Lone Case Is Called In County Court by Judge W. H. Coburn

### Crime Holiday Gives Summer Slump Appearance of Final Bankruptcy

Experiencing a seasonal slump during the past several weeks, the Martin County Recorder's Court last Monday appeared on the verge of bankruptcy. Business was bad, the court collecting hardly enough to meet overhead expenses. As for meeting the payroll, the court left the officers holding the bag.

Judge W. H. Coburn, convening the tribunal promptly at 9:30 o'clock, cleared the docket in about ten minutes and ordered an adjournment. There have been very few times in the history of the court that there wasn't more than one case on the docket. In one or two instances there have been as few as two or three cases on the docket, and in other instances there have been as many as 31 or 32.

When the docket carries only one case, it is fairly certain that crime is taking a holiday in the county. There were possibly a few fights and assaults and while it is possible that one or two of them will find their way to the court for Judge Coburn and Solicitor Don Johnson to settle, most of those minor or trivial cases will be cleared from the dockets in the justice of the peace courts.

Booker T. Hill, charged with violating the liquor laws, pleaded guilty and the court suspended judgment upon payment of the cost. Other than Hill and a few of his sympathizers there were few others in the court room for the session Monday morning.

## Vital Statistics For Griffins Township

Births outnumber deaths three and one-half to one in Griffins Township last year, a review of vital statistics for the district showing there were 21 births and six deaths during the period. Ten of the 21 births were among the white population. Four of the eleven colored births were classed as illegitimate.

There are two unusual features noticed in the vital statistics for the district. Although it is about an average township, Griffins has about the lowest birth rate in the county. It has a correspondingly low death rate, and strange as it may seem there wasn't a single death reported among the colored population there last year. The case is equaled in Bear Grass where there were no deaths reported among the colored population last year. There are comparatively few colored families in Griffins, and yet the colored births outnumbered the whites by a margin of one.

They live to a fairly ripe old age in the district, the youngest person to die there last year being 39 years of age. The average age for the seven who died during the period was 63 years, five of the persons being 64 years old or older. Various causes for the deaths were given as follows: tuberculosis, apoplexy, pneumonia, Bright's, asthma and cancer.

## Martin Farmers To Cooperate In Food Plan For Defense

### More Than Three Hundred Have Pledged To Plant And Enlarge Gardens

That Martin County farmers can be depended upon to cooperate in the food and feed for family living campaign in connection with the National Defense Program is already established as a fact, according to a report coming from the agricultural building here this morning. More than 300 farmers have already signed special cards, declaring their willingness to participate in the program.

While the authorities behind the program are not saying that there will actually be a food shortage, it is indeed evident that they are taking every step possible and pleading for the nation to make ready for any emergency that might present itself. There are large stores of such basic commodities as tobacco, but if the hungry millions could get food the supply would soon be exhausted.

Three hundred thousand enrollment cards have been printed and distributed to every North Carolina farm family, together with a letter of explanation from their county and home agent. There is nothing compulsory or binding about signing the cards. It is merely a statement of the intention of the farm family to aid in the National Defense Program.

Next fall farm families will be graded, and those who have produced at least 75 per cent of their food and feed requirements for the year will receive handomely engraved certificates signed by the Governor.

The Extension Service has prepared a guide to show the daily and annual food requirements for individuals and families as a part of the campaign. One of the guides has been placed in the hands of every family.

To provide an adequate year-round Food Guide shows that the minimum should be produced on the farm annually for each person at least: 73 gallons of milk; 26 pounds of butter; 53 pounds (dressed weight) of beef and veal; 75 pounds (dressed weight) of pork and lard; 31 pounds (dressed weight) of poultry; 30 dozen eggs; 22 pounds of lamb, fish, and game; 4 bushels of sweet or Irish potatoes; 160 pounds of green and yellow vegetables; 20 pounds of dried beans and peas and nuts; 2 bushels of tomatoes; 160 pounds of other vegetables, such as beets, onions, and parsnips; 160 pounds of fruits; 3 gallons of syrup or honey; 2 bushels of corn for meal and grits; and 2 bushels of wheat for flour and cereal.

A careful check will be made on participation in the program, and those who fail to fill in and return their cards will be visited by one of the workers of the county council to clear up any misunderstandings about the campaign.

## Installing Paper-Making Equipment

It is understood that 11 of the 22 freight carloads of machinery being brought to the plant of the North Carolina Pulp Company in the lower part of this county from the Cherry River Paper Company plant at Richmond, W. Va., have arrived and are being unloaded. The equipment includes a large paper machine which was obtained when the Kieckhefer Container Company, of which the North Carolina Pulp Company is a subsidiary, bought the West Virginia plant about two years ago.

Officials of the firm hope the remainder of the machinery will be received and the machinery reassembled in time to begin operation of it by the latter part of July. The plant at Richmond was closed down about the first of May to dismantle and remove the machinery to this county. It is understood that about 30 families, members of which have been engaged in operation of the equipment being moved, will arrive within the next few weeks.

## Need For United Service Group Is Stressed At Meet

### Martin County Asked to Raise \$350 For Support of the United Program

Combining into the United Service Organizations for National Defense, the agencies of the Young Men's Christian Association, National Catholic Community Service, Salvation Army, Young Women's Christian Association, the Jewish Welfare Board and the National Travelers Aid Association are launching an extensive drive in an effort to handle a big problem resulting from the encampment of more than one and one-half million men. The government can handle the situation on the military reservations, but trouble is looming off the reservations, and a united effort is being made to remedy that situation. There have been few times in history when a strong morale was more necessary than now. It is for building up and maintaining that morale, that the government is appealing to the United Service Organizations to step in and help, to create acceptable centers of entertainment and training for the youth of the land when on leave from the military reservation.

In this connection, Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall said a few days ago, "If you could see my daily mail . . . from women all over the country who have boys in this Army, you would realize how vastly important it is that we do something and do it quickly. We can manage this thing on the military reservation, but we very urgently need your assistance . . . to help matters off the reservation."

Deploable conditions have been reported off the reservations in many sections, and it is to improve these conditions that the several organizations have been united into one group to tackle the problem.

Martin County has nearly 400 men in the armed forces. It is to provide training and wholesome entertainment off the reservations for these 400 men and the million and half other members of the armed forces that a nation-wide drive to handle the problems, to assist service men and supplement the morale of fighting men is being launched.

Martin County is being asked to raise \$350 between now and June 15 to support the program. North Carolina's quota is \$124,500 and that for the nation is \$10,765,000.

Ray H. Goodman, chairman of the (Continued on page six)

## Horton Unpledged For Committeeman

While apparently leaning toward the Hoey camp, Attorney Hugh G. Horton, member of the State Democratic Executive Committee, has not pledged his vote in the hot race for National Committeeman. "I am going to the meeting tonight at eight o'clock feeling free to vote for either Mr. Hoey or Mr. Reynolds, and the facts as they are revealed there will determine my vote," Mr. Horton declared this morning, before leaving for Raleigh about noon.

The Hoey ring in this district is claiming a solid vote, but the claims are apparently unfounded according to reports coming from the common voters. Possibly Hoey holds an advantage as a hang-over from the old Ehringhaus clique, and he will possibly get a majority of the executive committeemen's votes in this district.

In this county a preliminary survey made at random and admittedly on a small scale, the county was more than three-to-one against Hoey, the other fourth confessing no great interest in the contest.

The office of National Committeeman of the Democratic Party apparently is more important than many believe judging from the fight between Clyde Hoey and Dick Reynolds. The old political ghost from the Hoey-McDonald gubernatorial campaign is rising again, but this time it has met with stubborn opposition offered by Mr. Reynolds the man who supported and worked for President Roosevelt's re-election last November, while Mr. Hoey remained at home with his state political knitting and did nothing.

Dick Reynolds is not to be confused with one Bob Reynolds. They are not related.

### COMPLIANCE

Starting their annual check of Martin County farms to determine compliance under the farm program, eight supervisors or surveyors felt the heat of a mid-summer and angry sun this week. Other supervisors will be added to the list in early June, County Supervisor D. N. Hix stating that efforts will be made to complete the check by early August.

Farmers are asked to cooperate with the supervisors by accompanying them on the field trips and by definitely determining the plan of operation, meaning to what extent each tenant shares, if any, in the crop.

## Movement Started for County-Wide Library

### State Funds Will Be Made Available For Library Units Soon

### Tri-County Set-up Favored by Representatives in Meet At Robersonville

Assured State aid, representative citizens from the various sections of Martin County meeting in Robersonville Wednesday afternoon launched a vigorous movement for the creation of a county-wide library service as a part of a possible tri-county or two-county set-up. Meeting with the group of more than fifteen leading citizens of the county, Miss Marjorie Beal, of the North Carolina Library Commission, explained the State-aid library program and discussed a possible set-up for this and adjoining counties. The program was heartily approved, and during the next few days plans will be advanced in an effort to perfect a set-up possibly with one or two adjoining counties.

The proposed program which is certain to make available library books to citizens in every nook and corner of the county, is dependent upon county cooperation. The little band of leaders, supported by interested citizens from nearly every one of the ten townships, will appear before the county commissioners at their next meeting and discuss the proposed library program. A comparatively small appropriation will be necessary to match the State aid and place the plan into effect. During the meantime plans of a more or less definite pattern for a proposed set-up will be prepared and laid before the authorities.

It was pointed out at the meeting in Robersonville Wednesday afternoon that the library service will be made available to every section of the county, that the distribution of books will be effected in community centers in every one of the ten townships.

Those who have made a study of the proposed plan are convinced that the county can well afford to cooperate in the worth-while movement which will cost at the most not over five cents per capita.

Commenting on the proposed State-aid program, Miss Beal at the Wednesday meeting had the following to say:

The 1941 General Assembly declared the establishment and maintenance of public libraries an integral part of the educational program of a great state.

Public library service in North Carolina has been very uneven; the income of no county has been sufficient for books, trained service and the extension of facilities to all the people. Every section needs additional money. The State Aid Fund shall supplement local funds and thus stabilize public libraries.

The North Carolina Library Commission Board was charged by the 1941 General Assembly with the administration of a Public Library Service Fund of \$100,000 a year to improve, stimulate, increase and equalize public library service throughout all sections of the State.

At a meeting on March 31, 1941, the Library Commission Board accordingly adopted plans for allocation of the fund, taking into consideration local needs, area and population to be served, local interest and other factors.

Whereas, the improvement and increase of public library service rests upon local and state participation, the city and county appropriations or the amounts voted for public library purposes shall be to, or equitable increases over such funds allocated or voted for library service during the year 1940-41.

Library service depends upon the ability, the training, the experience and the wide knowledge of the librarian. It is recommended that in regions and counties participating in the State Aid program, the extension (Continued on page six)

## County Group Will Attend Institute

County officers and authorities including also Sergeant L. L. Jackson of the Highway Patrol and possibly one or two members of the local police departments are planning to go to Chapel Hill tomorrow in search of book "learning". The Institute of Government is conducting a two-day institute for the interpretation of the laws of the 1941 General Assembly and the National Congress particularly affecting cities and towns, counties and the State of North Carolina.

Similar schools have been of marked value to officers and county and town officials, and reports state that this county will be represented tomorrow on the Hill. As far as it could be learned early today, Messrs. Joe H. and C. B. Roebuck, L. B. Wynne, Robert L. Perry and C. D. Carstarphen will represent the various county departments.

### CHAPLAIN



Martin County has a well-balanced representation in Uncle Sam's armed forces, including possibly 400 men in the various branches of the service. Up until recently, however, the county had no representative in the Army's religious training group. Rev. Z. B. T. Cox, former Oak City young man and son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Biggs Cox, is moving to chapelain at Camp Croft, S. C., and holds the rank of lieutenant. A brother of Mrs. R. A. Haislip, of this county, the young man was graduated by Phillips College, Oklahoma, and earned his master of arts degree at Drake University. He held a successful pastorate in Virginia before volunteering his services.

## Jehovah's Witness Jailed On Trespass Charge In Windsor

### No Visit Made Here Recently By Representatives of Special Religious Sect

J. S. Ruffner, member of a religious sect known as "Jehovah's Witnesses," was arrested in Windsor Wednesday on a charge of trespass. Maintaining his innocence, Ruffner, a Norfolk man, refused to pay the \$6 costs of the trial held before Magistrate P. T. Perry, and he was ordered jailed to await trial in Bertie County's general court on June 2. No fine was assessed against the man, and reports state that he made no effort to raise the \$25 appeal bond. Another report stated that it was fairly apparent that the Witness was inviting persecution, just or unjust, whichever it might be.

Ruffner, traveling with a woman Witness, went to the home of Rev. H. Fred Surratt, Methodist minister, in Windsor that morning. Offering to sell the minister certain kinds of literature, Ruffner was advised that none was needed, the minister further explaining that he had more than he could read already. Ruffner was said to have started arguing. The minister kindly asked him to leave the home. Ruffner continued the argument, and the minister eventually escorted him to the yard. When Ruffner failed to leave the yard, the police were called. They arrested him for being a public nuisance and called him before Magistrate Perry.

Direct reports from Windsor clearly indicated that the minister and the town authorities wanted no trouble with a member of the unique religious sect, and they acted only after the man virtually invited prosecution in the courts. Members of the religious organization have been arrested in several eastern Carolina towns during recent months for alleged violation of the law as it relates to the distribution of pamphlets and other printed papers. Several have been detained for making themselves public nuisances. Their rights have been upheld by the higher courts, but the case in Windsor apparently has a little different angle. (Continued on page six)

## County Group Will Attend Institute

### Bids Received For Paving River Fill

Bids for paving the Roanoke River fill at this point were received by the State Highway and Public Works Commission in Raleigh yesterday, a contract being delayed pending the completion of a study of the low bid by the authorities today. While the bid is subject to rejection, it is generally believed that it will be accepted and contract terms entered into today.

Ben H. Martin, of Easley, S. C., was the low bidder on the 2.94 miles paving project. The proposed contract calls for a price of \$86,989.50.

Details in connection with the proposed contract have not been made public. It isn't likely that the paving work will be started before some time in July.

## Assessed Property Valuations Show Increase in County

### Gain Stands at Half Million Dollars With Jamesville Township Unreported

Assessed property values in Martin County continue upward as more township list-takers report their findings. A check of nine townships—Jamesville unreported—shows a gain in values of \$526,366 over those of 1940. The gain does not include any gain that might be reported by the corporations whose values are determined with one or two exceptions by the utility commission.

Every one of the nine townships reporting so far show gains in real property values. Only two townships, Cross Roads and Griffins, reported losses in their personal property listings, and in each case the gain in real values more than offset the loss in personal property values. Cross Roads getting in with a gain of \$5,809. Personal property values in Cross Roads dropped from \$121,927 in 1940 to \$95,448 this year, a resulting decrease of \$26,479. Real property values jumped from \$446,450 to \$478,738, a resulting gain of \$32,288. The gain was reduced to \$5,809 after the personal property loss was deducted.

In Griffins Township, personal property values dropped from \$155,585 to \$145,174, a decrease of \$10,411. Real property values jumped from \$393,850 to \$439,255, a gain of \$45,405 and an increase in combined values of \$35,094.

The seven other townships reporting had gains in personal property values ranging from \$377 in Bear Grass to \$78,816 in Williamston. Real property values reflected gains in all of the nine townships, ranging from \$5,186 in Poplar Point to \$217,014 in Williamston.

The following tabulation shows the gains or losses in both personal and real property values for the nine townships reported to date:

	Personal	Real
Williams	\$ 3,352	\$ 22,480
Griffins	10,411	45,405
Bear Grass	377	18,411
Williamston	78,816	217,014
Cross Roads	26,479*	32,288
Robersonville	18,243	74,403
Poplar Point	1,522	5,186
Hamilton	1,145	41,451
Goose Nest	24,654	14,509
Totals	\$128,110	\$471,147

\*Denotes decrease. These figures are subject to correction and slight changes.

While there has been an increase in the listings so far reported, the gain in values is hardly up to general expectations. It has been pointed out, however, that many inequalities were eliminated in the listings, that the revaluation was ordered more for the purpose of eliminating those inequalities than to boost the total values.

A comparison of values by townships will be prepared by County Tax Supervisor S. H. Grimes just as soon as all the lists are submitted and a study can be made.

## Battle Continues On Terrific Scale In Mediterranean

### Hitler Sacrificing Human Life In Great Numbers; British Suffer Sea Losses

The battle of the Mediterranean continues to rage with increasing ferocity, late reports from the little island of Crete stating that Hitler is sacrificing human life in great numbers and that British men of war have suffered heavy damage.

Launching an attack to capture the island of Crete where the Greek government fled for safety, the Germans since last Monday have poured thousands of soldiers into the island by plane, gliders and boats. The invaders were killed in numbers and many were captured, but two key points have been taken and it is certain that Britain has a tough fight on her hands. Other islands are being taken, and the whole Mediterranean picture looks dark for the English.

The British have been driven from the air and the Stuka dive bombers are raining death and destruction on the opposition, the Germans claiming today that four British cruisers and several destroyers had been sunk in the battle. On the other hand, Britain's navy has dealt death and destruction to Nazi attempts to cross the approximately 80 miles of sea from Greece to the island in boats. The crowded boats were blasted to bits.

In France the unfavorable situation is being aggravated by increased German pressure. Britain has sent stiff warnings to the French rat leaders, advising them that unoccupied France would be bombed if continued collaboration in the manufacture of munitions for Germany is continued. The United States has voiced its disgust with the Vichy regime and German stooges parading as French leaders.

According to the terms of the (Continued on page six)