

Large Percentage Of Trainees Are Rejected By Army

Half of Last Two Groups Reporting For Service Have Returned Home

Falling below physical standards with a few others unable to meet literacy tests, half of the last two groups of selectees to report for military service were rejected by Army doctors at Fort Bragg. Apparently the Army doctors are checking more closely the health of the trainees and are sending back those who do not measure up to the standards.

While most of the seven men to return within the past few days were ruled out on account of physical defects, there were one or two who were rejected on account of illiteracy. It is fairly apparent that one of the trainees was not as illiterate as the records would indicate. Rejected by the Army doctor because he could not write his name, the trainee had signed his questionnaire. The case is placed in the files for investigation.

Up until the first of May, this county had sent 97 trainees to the Army induction centers. Fifteen of that number were rejected. So far during May, 22 men have been sent to the Army and nine of them were rejected. While the Army is rejecting as many as 40 per cent of the trainees sent from this county, local examining board doctors rejected quite a few, but the percentage figures are not immediately available.

William Ernest "Cotton" Davis' flat feet would not qualify him for army hikes and he was rejected. He says he can make it around fairly well at home with those same feet, however. Cushing Biggs Bailey, leaving with Davis and two other trainees last Tuesday, was also rejected on account of physical ailments.

Three of the ten colored trainees leaving last week were rejected immediately and they were followed by two others. The names of those rejected are, Thomas Ryan, William Degraffenread, Isaac Sutton, Louis Embor Ruffin and Euphrates Eugene Singleton.

Ten white trainees are scheduled to leave for Fort Bragg from this county next week.

Exhausting the supply of questionnaires some time ago, the county draft board has received 400 additional forms and that many registrants will have the questions fired at them beginning next Monday. To date, 1,702 questionnaires have been sent to the registrants, the new supply will boost the number to 2,102. The forms will be mailed at the rate of about 50 each day during next week and the early part of the following week.

Urgent Need For Library Service

A report released in connection with the operation of a bookmobile by the Works Progress Administration during ten weeks last fall in this county stresses an urgent need for a county-wide library service in Martin County. During the brief period last fall, 16,699 books were placed in the hands of Martin County people in every one of the ten townships. Nearly two-thirds or 10,881 of the books were read by children, the adults reading 5,818.

There has been an extensive movement to provide recreation for children in the county during recent years. Gymnasiums have been built. Playgrounds and swimming pools have been provided. Now there is a golden opportunity to do something to enrich young minds and for the entertainment of adults by cooperating in a plan calling for the creation of a county-wide library service.

While final action rests with the authorities, it is hoped that they will consider the plan seriously when they meet next Monday.

Retention Of Text Is Hopeless Task

After frantically trying to salvage a few pages from the books, North Carolina education leaders have finally agreed that the task is a hopeless one, the action bringing to a close one of the greatest political stinks ever smelt in educational circles in this State.

In addition to the pussyfooting and gently applied salving, the historians checking Mr. Warren's masterpiece announced that 1,000 factual errors had been found in the book, that the book could not be corrected.

Announcing the abandonment of the Warren text, State authorities intimated that no book offering the cold facts and the truth and nothing but the truth, meaning one like the Newsome-Letter text, would find its way into the school system.

NEW CAROLINA OPERATORS



Recognized as able farmer-tobaccoists, the operators of the New Carolina Tobacco Warehouse for the coming season include new faces. Headed by the veterans, Johnny Gurkin and Sylvester Lilley, the firm has two new members, W. D. Odom and John A. Manning. Pictured above are top, left to right, Messrs. Odom and Gurkin; bottom, Lilley and Manning.

Completion of Fill Is Promised in August

STREETS

While the day has not been definitely determined, surfacing work on several local streets will get underway the early part of next week. The foundations have just about been conditioned and equipment and materials will start moving in over the weekend for the completion of the project.

To Organize County Service Group Here Next Monday Night

Movement Vitrally Necessary To National Defense, Declares Chairman

Preliminary plans for organizing a Martin County unit of the United Service Organizations are virtually complete, and every person interested in this country's defense is invited and urged to attend the organization meeting in the Legion Hut here next Monday night.

R. H. Goodman, appointed by the Governor to serve as county chairman, is addressing the following letter to the general public, explaining the nature of the organization and urging a big attendance upon the meeting:

"Under the name, United Service Organizations for National Defense, a corporation has been formed by six national religious and welfare organizations, which, with Government approval and cooperation, will serve the spiritual, recreational, welfare and social needs of the men and women in the armed forces and defense industries of the United States.

"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 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.

"This is an emergency in which America calls upon her citizens to aid. Therefore, you are most cordially invited and urged to attend a "USO" meeting, for the purpose of organizing Martin County leaders, to be held in the American Legion Hut, in Williamston, at 8:00 on Monday night, June 2, 1941.

"Participation in this enterprise of the United Service Organizations is an acknowledgment of the debt we owe those who are guaranteeing our safety and the continuation of our democratic way of life.

Miss Sophia Little Died Thursday In Raleigh Hospital

Funeral Services at Home of Aunt On Houghton Street This Afternoon

Miss Sophia Williams Little, popular local young woman, died in a Raleigh hospital yesterday morning at 5 o'clock following an illness of only a few weeks' duration. Her condition was not considered serious until just a few days ago. She underwent an operation in the hospital last Monday and her condition was reported very satisfactory to relatives late Wednesday night. A blood clot formed and death followed a very short time later.

Miss Little, the daughter of Mrs. Rena Fleming Little, of Pactolus, and the late George Little, was born in Pactolus, Pitt County, on January 11, 1910. At the tender age of four years she came to Williamston to make her home with her aunt and the late Dr. William E. Warren. After completing her courses in the local schools she attended the East Carolina Teachers' College, Greenville, for several years. When a young girl she took membership in the Methodist Church, remaining faithful to its teachings and in its service through the years. Thoughtful of others and possessed of a pleasing personality, she made friends readily and was held in high esteem by all who knew her. She was working on a special project for the Works Progress Administration until forced to retire a little over two weeks ago by ill health.

Besides her aunt, Mrs. W. E. Warren, with whom she made her home here, her mother, a sister, Mrs. Wiley Dickinson, and a brother, William Little, all of Pactolus, survive. Funeral services are being conducted from the late home on Houghton Street this afternoon at 5 o'clock by Rev. L. C. Larkin, a former pastor of Rocky Mount, assisted by Rev. B. T. Hurley, pastor of the local Methodist Church. Interment will follow in the family plot in the local cemetery.

Judge W. H. Coburn Calls Six Cases In The County Court

Dr. W. G. McLeod Fined \$50 On Drunk Driving Charge Of Long Standing

Reaching a low point last week, business in the Martin County Recorder's Court picked up considerably last Monday when Judge W. H. Coburn called half a dozen cases for trial. Instead of lasting a few minutes as the previous session did, the court last Monday did not complete its work until almost noon. The number of spectators was larger, but the work of the court was hardly up to normal and the nature of the docket offered nothing that would approach the sensational.

Dr. W. G. McLeod, booked on a drunken driving charge in the county some time ago, pleaded guilty through his attorney. He was fined \$50, taxed with the costs and had his license to operate a motor vehicle revoked for one year. The defendant did not appear in person, but was represented by special counsel.

Pleading not guilty in the case charging him with violating the liquor laws, Simon Jenkins was adjudged guilty, the court imposing a fine of \$10 on him. He appealed to the higher court and bond in the sum of \$50 was required.

In the case charging Mack and Willie Peterson with violating the liquor laws, both defendants entered pleas of not guilty. Mack's plea was sustained, but the other defendant was adjudged guilty, the court imposing a \$10 fine with the costs attached.

Charged with being drunk and disorderly and with an assault, Kelly Briley was adjudged guilty of a simple assault over his own plea of innocence. The case was continued under prayer for judgment until Monday, June 9th.

Will Vick, charged with being drunk and disorderly, failed to answer when called. Papers were issued for his immediate arrest.

Charged with an attempted assault, James Brooks pleaded not guilty. He was adjudged guilty and

Mrs. J. M. Lewis Dies In Virginia

Mrs. J. M. Lewis, mother of Mrs. W. R. Ingram, of Williamston, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. O. F. Lewis, in Danville, Va., Wednesday evening at 6:30 o'clock following a long period of declining health. Funeral services were conducted in the Virginia city this morning at 11 o'clock, interment following in the family plot.

Mrs. Lewis, 87 years of age, had made extended visits here with her daughter during the past several years. She made a number of close friendships during her visits here and was held in high esteem by all who knew her. She was unusually active for her advanced age up until her last illness.

Rev. James H. Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Hardison were among those from here to attend the last rites this morning.

Make Plans For Distribution Of Cotton Purchasing Stamps

Plans are being formulated in the office of the farm agent for handling and distributing cotton purchasing stamps in Martin County. An organization is to be perfected at a meeting of farmers, merchants and other interested citizens to be held in the agricultural building on Monday, June 9. The plan will be explained at a general meeting to be held on the evening of June 13.

The stamps will be distributed to farmers cooperating with the special program just as soon as compliance is determined. All farmers who have reduced their cotton acreages as much as one acre below the allotment are eligible to participate in the program. They must, if they have not already done so, state their intentions of cooperating with the

program not later than June 14. Approximately 500 cotton farmers are already planning to participate in the program in this county, and it is believed that they are ready to receive the special benefits. It is estimated that more than \$15,000 in cotton purchasing stamps will be distributed to farmers in this county.

The stamps will be accepted by cooperating merchants in exchange for cotton goods or cotton clothing. Issued in convenient denominations, the stamps will have the same purchasing power as "cold" cash as far as cotton goods are concerned. Merchants interested in cooperating with the program are invited to attend the meetings scheduled for the 9th and 13th.

Drought Is Regarded As Serious in South

Marked Shortage In Irish Potato Crop Is Predicted In Section

Many Farmers Report Crops Withering in Fields; Poor Stand of Tobacco

Rounding out the fourth week without much or any rain at all, a greater part of the South is now in the grip of a drought which is rapidly reaching serious proportions. Conditions, while approaching the serious point, are not as bad in this section as they are further to the south, and even within this county some communities are drier than others.

So far this month, only 0.79 of an inch of rain has been reported by the weather station on Roanoke River here, the rainfall for the first five months of the current year being about eight inches below the normal for the past ten-year period. The first five months of last year were possibly drier than the corresponding period in this year, but the rains were fairly well distributed a year ago. Since late in April only four rains—0.19, 0.40, 0.16 and 0.04 inches—have been recorded by the weather station here, each of them hardly being large enough to stay the dust.

The Roanoke is approaching a new low point, but strange as it may seem the Hardison Millpond in Griffins Township is only 18 or 20 inches below a "head". Crops, while doing fairly well, considering the dry weather, are beginning to look bad. There are those farmers who have from fair to good stands of tobacco, but reliable reports indicate that many farmers have no more than 75 per cent of a stand and certainly not more than 80 per cent. And try as hard as they can, most of them are unable to get a stand. Hay crops are being hard hit. Peanuts are not coming up very rapidly in numerous cases, but that portion of the crop planted early is doing very well. The corn crop, growing very rapidly during recent days, is beginning to wither in the fields. The situation is declared to be serious for Irish potatoes. Farmers declare that the dry weather has already lowered production by at least 25 per cent, as a whole, and considerably more in some cases.

The dry spell is taxing Williamston's water system to capacity. Pumps are being operated from 15 to 18 hours daily and the supply is gradually falling behind the demand. The water situation has not been regarded as alarming, but it is fairly certain that the swimming pool cannot be filled until the demand is lessened by rain and the supply is boosted. Much water is being used for conditioning the streets for surfacing, and not as many would

President's Talk Is Well Received Here

President Roosevelt's talk in which he clearly outlined the nation's foreign policy last Tuesday night was well received in this quarter. While there may be a few who hold opinions contrary to those advanced by the President, the dozens who commented on the talk were impressed and heartily endorsed the stand.

Jamesville Plans Mattress Project

Through the efforts of Jamesville citizens, a mattress center will be set up there in the near future. Mr. Frosty Martin has been interested in the project for some time and Mrs. Maude Mizelle and Mrs. Lloyd Ange have also worked hard to get this project for Jamesville.

The project will assist farm and low income families in Jamesville Township, Williams Township and Griffins Township.

Over 300 mattresses were made in Everetts in the last four-week period.

Germans Continuing Costly Campaign In Mediterranean Area

Outright Intervention by This Nation Seen As Only Hope To Stop Barbarians

Without ships of his own and battling against the mighty British fleet, Hitler continues to push forward into the Mediterranean area, leaving a greater part of the continent of Europe already suffering from an iron heel domination. Although reduced to a minor scale as compared with Dunkirk and the withdrawal from Greece, the situation in the Island of Crete is now regarded serious for the stalwart Greek and British defenders. The defending forces are literally bottled up with escape possible only over rugged mountains and in small boats beyond.

Sending troops by air, Hitler has virtually gained control of the 165-mile long island and has dealt costly blows to the British fleet. The main island port, Suda Bay, has fallen into the hands of the invaders along with large supplies of British munitions. Hitler is rapidly building his stopping stones to the Near East, and it is becoming more apparent that nothing will or can stop him without outright intervention by this nation.

Dive bombers, in endless assaults, destroyed in Suda Bay the 8,250-ton cruiser York, as she lay crippled and under intermittent repair. But official announcements indicated, all but seven of her 600-man crew—two dead and five wounded—got away unscathed.

Shortly thereafter the Middle East command announced: "Our troops have withdrawn to positions east of Suda Bay."

The Germans already had the bomb-rimed capital—Canea—which lies across a narrow neck of land just off Suda Bay, and the airport of Makina, 10 miles southwest of Canea.

Possession of the bay itself, admittedly perfected a bridgehead for sea-borne reinforcements. Until now, Makina and nearby beaches have formed the main gateway for the air-borne invaders.

So far, the British say, very few Axis troops have landed by sea, although the British have received some sea-borne help themselves.

The British, Australians and New Zealanders, with their Greek and Crete allies, made several counter-attacks that cost the Germans many lives, but they were forced slowly back by sheer weight of numbers.

Canea had been abandoned by the civilian population and Suda Bay, too, had been cleared of all the ships that could leave. It is a watery grave yard for semi-submerged hulks as the result of dive-bombings which long before the invasion, made the harbor one of the most hellish spots on earth.

Lake Canea, the two other main settlements on the northern coastal belt—Reitimo, 35 miles east of Canea, and Candia, 30 miles farther east—have scarcely a stone on top of one another. The Greek emigre-premier, Emmanuel Tsouderos, said today that fire in these cities has completed the work of the dive-bombers which themselves "literally plowed up" the towns.

Canea once had 26,000 people; Candia 33,000; and Reitimo, 8,600.

Destruction of the York means that the British now have acknowledged in the battle for Crete loss of 7 warships, three cruisers, and four destroyers. The other ships were sunk in preventing sea-borne Axis reinforcements from reaching the island last week. Two battleships and several other warships have been damaged.

Late reports, released by German sources, maintain Crete has fallen and that victory is just about complete. A British general was said to

Announce Operators Carolina Warehouse

A strong operating personnel for the New Carolina Tobacco Warehouse this coming season was announced this week when Messrs. Sylvester Lilley, John A. Manning, W. D. Odom and Johnny Gurkin formed a partnership and immediately formulated plans for operating the business.

These men are widely known to tobacco growers and other farmers throughout the eastern section of North Carolina. They have been closely connected with agriculture at its base, and have been on the markets representing the growers for a number of years.

Mr. Odom comes to the market here from Ahsokie where he has been engaged in the warehouse business for a number of years. He is regarded as an able tobaccoist and warehouseman. The other three members of the firm need no introduction to the farmers of this and adjoining counties. Through their various business connections, they have gained the confidence and good will of hundreds upon hundreds of farmers over a wide territory.

A new operating schedule assures the Williamston market a successful season.

COMMISSIONERS

Although they have very little work scheduled, the Martin commissioners can well expect a long session next Monday. Preliminary reviews of the county's 1941 structure, including the alleged tax dodgers are fairly likely. The various departmental budgets will likely be discussed, but no action is expected. The meeting is one which nothing special is scheduled for consideration, but one during which nearly everything will be discussed.

Advocates of a county-wide library service are planning to appear before the board with a good argument.

Local Man Charged With Theft Of Car Here Last Saturday

J. C. Nicholson Suffers Painful Back Injury In Bad Auto Crash

Mystery surrounding the theft and subsequent wreck of Mrs. J. A. Eason's car last week-end was clarified by members of the highway patrol and town and county officers Tuesday afternoon with the arrest of J. C. Nicholson, local young white man, in Weldon. Nicholson indirectly admitted the theft of the car, but seems to remember very few details relative to the wreck and subsequent happenings until several hours later.

Nicholson, believed to have been alone, stole the car from in front of the Eason home on Academy Street late Saturday night. The car was found a few hours later wrecked beyond repair at Mill Branch on the Hamilton Road. Investigating the case, Patrolman Whit Saunders found a comb which was later identified as that of Nicholson's. Other articles were found and they aided in identifying Nicholson.

Questioned by officers, Nicholson said that he took some medicine about 10:30 o'clock last Saturday night for a cold, that he later drank some ABC liquor. The next thing he could recall was that he felt the automobile turning over. "I don't know whether I was thrown out or whether I crawled from the wrecked machine," he told officers. Apparently in a daze as a result of the liquor and the wreck, Nicholson, suffering only a painful back injury, wandered through the woods and at daybreak he was two miles from the scene of the wreck and near Abbott's mill. He went to a home and later paid a man 50 cents to carry him home. After spending the afternoon at home, he left to visit a relative in Weldon, his arrest being effect there Tuesday afternoon.

Nicholson, about 25 years of age, was given a preliminary hearing before Justice J. L. Hassell Tuesday night. Probable cause was found in the case and he was bound over to the superior court for trial under bond in the sum of \$500. The bond was later reduced to \$300, but the young man was unable to raise that amount immediately and he was ordered to jail.

He is charged with the larceny of a car and operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor.

Two Implicated With Slaughter House Theft

Nelson Mason and Fenner Respass were placed under bonds in the sum of \$100 this week in connection with the alleged theft of a quantity of sausage from the Roberson Slaughter House late last Tuesday night.

Mason is charged with the theft and Respass is charged with aiding and abetting larceny. They are scheduled to appear for trial in the county court next Monday.