

## State Fire Marshall Offers Dark Picture To Carolina Firemen

### Quarterly Meeting of Eastern Association Held Here Tuesday Night

Sherwood Brockwell, State Fire Marshall, painted a gloomy picture for Eastern Carolina firemen in their annual meeting held in the American Legion Hut here last Tuesday evening. The Raleigh man's address was the high spot in an interesting and entertaining program planned by G. P. Hall, chief of the Williamston fire department.

"London, despite its vast area and the continuous threat of fire, has operated through one of the most devastating attacks ever levelled on any city with only 700 paid firemen. Volunteers, imbued with a spirit to serve their fellowman and to protect the lives and properties of others, have with the Royal Air Force and the anti-aircraft batteries borne the brunt of the attack on England."

Talking with the belief that almost anything can happen, Mr. Brockwell explained that eastern Carolina occupies a dangerous spot in the country if and when an invader turns toward the United States.

Attendance upon the annual meeting of the North Carolina Firemen's Association in Asheville next month was urged, the marshal explaining that a \$100,000 fund had been created to protect volunteer firemen in sickness and death, and that it was up to the volunteers to administer that fund and see that it is protected against assault by those who could squander it for purposes foreign to its original purpose.

The group was welcomed by Mayor John L. Hassell, Elizabeth City's fire chief and mayor, Jerome B. Flora, responding. Other speakers on the program were Chief Frank W. Bennett, of Durham; Hugh G. Horton, local attorney; D. E. Shuford, president of the North Carolina Firemen's Association, and Marl Lassiter, of Snow Hill. Captain Ross, of the Durham department, and Acting Fire Chief Cox, of Fort Bragg, were recognized. Features on the entertainment program were two numbers by the Maple Grove quartet and solos by Mrs. J. H. Smith, accompanied by Mrs. G. S. Hall.

## Compliance Work Nears Completion

According to a report coming from the office of the county agent this morning, compliance work on Martin County farmers is nearing completion, the preliminary reports stating that while a few farmers had planted in excess of their allotted acreages, the surplus was small in most cases. It was also pointed out that most of those farmers planting excess crops were destroying the surpluses. Only a few are said to have intentionally planted in excess of their allotments, the increase being centered in tobacco.

While there is an excess peanut acreage, the farmers declared they were planning to "hog down" the surplus and meet the soil conservation program requirements. Most of the excess tobacco acreage has already been destroyed. Re-checks will be made to determine final compliance.

The few farmers planting excess cotton acreages are also destroying the few surplus rows, the report stating that a big majority of the farmers had actually planted a smaller cotton acreage than was allotted them, that the county will share almost maximum benefits allowed through the cotton surplus marketing or stamp plan. No stamps have been received in this county so far, but the distribution of between \$15,000 and \$25,000 worth is expected within a short time.

## Patrons To Consider Federal Leaf Grading for Local Mart

A tobacco referendum on leaf inspection or grading is being proposed for the Williamston and two other markets in the bright belt, subject to the wishes of the patrons of the market to be expressed on July 24, 25 and 26. The referendum will also cover the markets at Robersonville and Tarboro.

### MEETING

Officers and members of the local Chamber of Commerce will meet with representatives of the Williamston tobacco warehousemen in the agricultural building here next Monday evening at 8 o'clock to discuss plans for advancing the common interests of the tobacco market this coming season. Members of the organization and others are cordially invited to attend the meeting and take part in the discussions.

## Twenty-Six County Young Men Leaving For Army July 23rd

### Induction Orders To Go Out To 26 County White Men This Week-end

Orders will be issued this week-end to 26 Martin County young white men, instructing them to report for service in the nation's armed forces on Wednesday, July 23. The county's quota for the 23rd was 27 men, but the number failing to pass the physical examinations was so large that the quota could not be filled in its entirety, the draft board clerk also adding that many were deferred at the last minute by reason of their ages.

The names of those young men tentatively scheduled to report for duty on the 23rd are:

Randolph Chandler, Willis Robert Crandall, Dixie Dawe Roberson, Thomas Gordon Roberson and Charlie Gaston Curtis, all of Robersonville; Hal Carris Parrish, William Leonard Jones, Joseph Alexander Martin and Wesley Williams, all of Jamesville; Luther Hugh Hardison, of Jamesville and Wilmington; Benjamin Edward Mauney, Nph Henry Gurganus, George Lee Roberson and Exum Lewis Ward, all of Williamston; George Wilson Moore, of Jamesville; R.F.D. 1, William Henry Gurkin, Robert Lee Dickerson and Albert Earl Roberson, of Williamston; R.F.D. 1, William Herbert Mizelle and Gracie Burrigall Hardy, of Williamston; R.F.D. 2, Charlie Kelley Whitehurst, of R.F.D. Robersonville; Willie B. Glisson, of Parmele, and Ruel Johnson Turner of Robersonville; R.F.D. 1. In addition to the 23 selectees, there are three volunteers in the group slated to leave the county week after next. Their names are: Densel Arlington Simpson, of Williamston; Vernon Bryant Ward, of Robersonville, and Charlie Horace Whitaker, of Williamston R. F. D. 2.

The call is the second received by young Crandall. He was sent to the induction station at Fort Bragg some time ago and was rejected. A ruling covering his and other similar cases was issued, making him eligible for service.

Fourteen Martin County colored men leave for Fort Jackson next Thursday.

The next calls are expected in August, at which time it is likely that some of those young men registering last week will be called into the service.

## Child Critically Ill In The Local Hospital Today

Jane Rogerson, 6-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Rogerson, of Bear Grass, was reported seriously ill in the local hospital shortly before noon today. Operated on for a ruptured appendix earlier this week, the little girl is courageously fighting a case of peritonitis.

### LOTTERY

Those young men registering for possible army service last week will get their order numbers following a national drawing or lottery in Washington next Thursday, reliable reports stating that some of the new registrants can expect calls to service within a short time.

The new registrants' order numbers will be "squeezed" in the old order number list, some of them falling into the low figures and some falling among the last of the old numbers.

dum must favor the inspection service before the Department of Agriculture will provide the service free of cost to the farmer. Ballots for the referendum will be made available shortly by the county agent's office. Voting will be centered in the agricultural building and by mail.

## County Council To Work With Tenant Purchase Program

### Appointees Named This Week By Thos. J. Swain, County FSA Supervisor

Seven Martin County citizens have been named on committees to advise and assist in the operation of the rehabilitation and tenant purchase programs of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Thomas J. Swain, Martin County Supervisor for Farm Security Administration, announced the appointments made by Vance E. Swift, FSA State director at Raleigh.

The members, appointed by Mr. Swift, are: J. H. Ayers, Oak City, merchant; W. J. Beach, Hamilton, farmer; T. B. Brandon, Williamston, county agent; D. V. Clayton, Williamston, banker; C. L. Daniel, Williamston Route 1, farmer; James C. Manning, Williamston, superintendent public schools; C. C. Martin, Jamesville, farmer; Mrs. E. V. Smith, Palmyra, merchant and farmer; Mary W. Taylor, Williamston, superintendent public welfare; Joseph R. Winslow, Robersonville Route 1, farmer.

Mr. Swain said that Messrs. Winslow, Daniel and Beach will serve as members of the sub-committee on the Tenant Purchase Program; Mr. Winslow, Mr. Clayton and Mr. Ayers will serve on the sub-committee for the Farm Debt Adjustment and tenure improvement work; Mr. C. C. Martin, Mr. Daniel and Mrs. E. V. Smith will serve on the sub-committee for the rural rehabilitation program. Mr. Brandon, Mr. Manning and Miss Taylor are members at large to advise on the various phases of assistance to low income farm families.

The Tenant Purchase program provides funds for the purchase of family type farms by qualified tenants under the Bankhead-Jones-Tenant Purchase Act. Martin County already has 23 new farm owners in this program. FSA rehabilitation loans are available to low income farm families, ineligible for credit elsewhere, for the purchase of livestock, workstock, seed, fertilizer and equipment, in accordance with carefully planned operation of the farm and home. About 250 farm families in Martin County have already been helped by this program.

The services of debt adjustment committees are available to all farmers, as well as to FSA borrowers. The committees will assist

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## Ickes Asking Cut In Oil Consumption

In a letter to Governor J. M. Broughton this week, Harold L. Ickes, petroleum co-ordinator for national defense, pleaded for a voluntary decrease in the use of gasoline and oil in North Carolina. Similar requests, urging voluntary action in an effort to solve the motor fuel problem caused by over-taxed transportation facilities, are being directed to all other states along the Atlantic Seaboard.

The co-ordinator called upon the state executives to head "a voluntary effort" to reduce consumption, warning that unless the effects of transportation deficiencies can be offset the impending shortage will "cause a serious setback in our national defense efforts and also result in much inconvenience and discomfort to the people generally."

Particularly important, it was said by members of the co-ordinator's staff, is a reduction in the consumption of gasoline. Nearly all the gasoline used in the Atlantic coast area originates as crude petroleum in the southwestern or Caribbean oil fields and either the crude oil or the finished product is moved by water to east coast ocean terminals, and thence to consuming areas by barges, railroad tank cars and tank trucks.

## German Blitzkrieg Fought To Frazzle By Russian Forces

### German War Claims Do Not Match Actual Gains During First 18 Days of War

While it may be the lull before the storm, late reports from Russia indicate that all's fairly quiet on the Eastern Front at this time, with the German Blitzkrieg being fought to a frazzle during the past eighteen days. After claiming the destruction of the Russian Army, the Russian air force and the successful occupation of vast Russian territories, the Germans apparently have run out of claims and are remaining silent. And possibly it is difficult for the high command to explain to the German people back home why it is Germany has not yet whipped Russia after doing all that. About all Germany had to say late yesterday was that "operations in the east are progressing relentlessly." It is indeed apparent that operations in the East are not going "according to plan."

It is fairly well established now that Germany's first invasion attempt has been smashed, that what Germany had hoped to accomplish in ten days is yet to be accomplished after eighteen days.

Commentators and reporters, following the German invasion are now convinced that Germany has deliberately misrepresented the facts, that the Russians while relinquishing some ground have virtually stopped the first assault.

Just before the lull was reported on the Eastern Front, a Russian communique described the destruction of a German division in earlier fighting.

This German mechanized division, attempting to break through the right flank of a Russian position far west of Moscow, was routed, the Red Army communique said, leaving 3,500 dead and wounded Germans on the field.

Furthermore, about 2,400 Germans were captured.

The Russians said they also captured powerful Nazi batteries, numerous machine guns and automatic arms, 150 motorcycles and other equipment in good state.

The German division failed on its first try to dent the Soviet lines, then threw in more reserves and succeeded in piercing the Russian ranks temporarily, the communique said.

Arrival of Soviet reinforcements, however, trapped and routed the German solient in a bloody battle. Scores of burned-out German tanks also were reported left on the field.

Presumably this was the German division earlier reported to have been annihilated in the Lepel region, at the head of the Berezina River in the general vicinity of where the Germans are trying to smash through toward Moscow.

The Russian communique added that the Russian air force dealt blows at German motorized and mechanized forces throughout the day in the direction of Ostrov, in the Baltic area, and Novograd Volynski, in the path of the German drive toward Kiev, in the Ukraine.

The communique reported that the Russian air force had attacked enemy airports and destroyed 28 German planes in air battles and raids on airdromes, while losing six itself.

Everywhere else along the central front, about Polotsk and Bobruisk specifically, Soviet troops were pictured as not giving an inch and as intermittently on the counter-attack.

The implication was that the German thrust at the center had passed its peak for the present and that its power was being fast expended by the enormous losses inflicted for six days.

As to the Ukrainian fronts, the Soviet armies were said to be checking German advances both from the vicinity of Novograd Volynski and from the Bessarabian frontier region to the South.

In the north, German thrusts from the Ostrov vicinity toward Leningrad were said to have been "beaten off" with heavy losses for the invaders.

The Soviet command's day communique made no mention of the far northern fighting areas, presumably including them among those where there were "no major operations" to report.

Red aerial activity again was reported.

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## Victim Of Bad Wreck Is Improving In Hospital

Critically injured in an automobile wreck near here last Sunday evening, Miss Mary Lou Roberson, young Everetts girl, continues to improve in the Brown Community Hospital here following a major head operation last Monday. Her recovery is expected if no complications result. The young lady continues to have some fever, Dr. V. E. Brown said this morning, but otherwise her condition is very encouraging.

## Commissioners Fix County Tax Rate At \$1.35 For Fiscal Year In Recessed Session Wednesday

### Delay Appointment Of a Prosecutor For The County's Court

### Johnson's Induction in Army Delayed Subject To Another Defense Call

Learning that Solicitor Don E. Johnson had been deferred sixty days by the county draft board subject to a call into another branch of the national defense service, the Martin Commissioners this week delayed the appointment of an acting prosecutor for the recorder's court. Offering his services some months ago to the government, Mr. Johnson has been instructed to stand by for immediate call which is said to have been delayed pending the completion of a physical examination. The solicitor had already passed his army physical examination, and was to have received his induction orders this week-end when he was deferred pending the outcome of his application to serve in another defense post for the government. The nature of his proposed duties was not publicly disclosed.

Should Mr. Johnson be called into the special service before the next first Monday, it is highly probable that the commissioners will meet in special session and name his successor to serve the court.

In a three-day session ending here Wednesday afternoon, the county commissioners centered their attention on budget figures and the adoption of a tax rate for the current fiscal year. After discussing at some length proposed changes in listing property and collecting taxes, the authorities took no definite action. The commissioners are looking to the courts to relieve the tax-listing situation, and tax collecting methods will probably come up for further discussion at a later meeting.

Other proceedings, not previously reported.

Even though their recommendations carried little weight with the old State Highway and Public Works Commission, the commissioners this week upon motion of C. D. Carstarphen supported by C. A. Roberson's second, designated the road in Griffins Township leading to Farm Life as No. 1 project in the county's new road building program. The recommendation is being forwarded to District Highway Commissioner Carroll Wilson in Roanoke Rapids.

The board also designated the Holiday road in Jamesville Township for State maintenance.

James Gardner, of Jamesville, was relieved of \$1 dog tax listed in error.

Reynolds Gardner, of Jamesville, was relieved of poll taxes from 1933 to 1941 on account of physical disabilities. J. David Coltrain was also relieved of poll tax on account of physical disability.

Irving L. Smith was reappointed a member of the Martin County Alcoholic Beverages Control Board for a three-year term. The appointment was made subject to approval of the Board of Education and Board of Health and acceptance by Mr. Smith.

It was one of the few times in recent years that the commissioners held three daily sessions handling their current duties.

## Assign Quotas In Ambulance Drive

Township quotas in the campaign to raise funds for the purchase of an airplane ambulance for Britain were assigned this week by Albert S. Peel, recently appointed by Gov. J. M. Broughton to head the drive in this county.

Quotas were announced, as follows: Jamesville Township, \$25; Williams Township, \$25; Griffins Township, \$25; Bear Grass Township, \$25; Williamston Township, \$100; Cross Roads Township, \$25; Robersonville Township, \$50; Poplar Point Township, \$25; Hamilton Township, \$25, and Goose Nest Township, \$25.

In an open letter this week, the chairman of the drive in this county said:

"The purpose of this fund is to provide England with a fully equipped airplane ambulance as a gift to the people of the British Isles from the citizens of North Carolina. The English people are badly in need of airplane ambulances. Everyone knows the plight of England at the present time, that the English people have their back to the wall, and that they are fighting to preserve democracy in the world."

### BOOKMOBILE

Plans are nearing completion for inaugurating a library service for the counties of Hyde, Beaufort and Martin in cooperation with the State Library Commission and through a special legislative grant. A bookmobile to be used in the district has been delivered to Rev. John L. Goff, and it will be made ready for service shortly.

## Judge W. H. Coburn Calls Eight Cases In County's Court

### One Defendant Answers the Charges in Two Cases of Drunken Driving

Calling eight cases, Judge W. H. Coburn had one of those long, drawn-out sessions of the Martin County Recorder's Court last Monday, a session that heard a great deal of testimony but one that by its record showed that no great deal was accomplished. It's the way of the court, however, and while it can handle a string of cases almost a yard long in a very short time, it requires long hours to handle a few tedious cases.

The high spot in the proceedings was the trial of Howard Cherry who faced the court on two separate drunken driving charges, the charges having been brought against the defendant one almost right after the other. In fact, it was pointed out in court that the man hardly had time to sober up before he was booked on the second count. Cherry pleaded not guilty in both cases, but was found guilty on both counts. For the first offense he was fined \$50, taxed with the cost and had his license revoked for one year. In the second case he was sentenced to the roads for three months, the court suspending the sentence upon guaranteed good behavior and that he remain a law-abiding citizen for two years.

Tendering no plea in the case charging him with an assault with a deadly weapon, Robert Edmondson was adjudged guilty of a simple assault, the court continuing the case under prayer for judgment until July 14.

Pleading not guilty in the case charging him with an assault, Henry E. Bellflower was found guilty of a simple assault, the court suspending judgment upon payment of the cost.

Charged with operating a motor vehicle while his license was revoked, Robert S. Abernathy was fined \$10 and taxed with the case costs.

Henry Godard, pleading not guilty, was adjudged guilty in the case charging him with non-support. He was directed to pay into the court the sum of \$6 a month for the support of his two children for five months and reappear for further judgment.

The case charging James R. Bullock with issuing a worthless check, was continued for the State.

D. D. Hill, charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, was adjudged not guilty.

## Local Man Appointed To District Appeal Board

Governor J. M. Broughton this week appointed Mr. G. H. Harrison as a member of the First District Board of Appeals under the Selective Service Act. Accepting the appointment, Mr. Harrison will attend his first meeting the latter part of this month or early in August. He succeeds John H. Hackney, of Wilson, who resigned the post a short time ago.

Characteristic of most governmental appointments, the job carries no remuneration save honor.

### GAS REBATES

Martin County farmers, entitled to tax rebates on gasoline used in tractors and for the operation of other farm machinery, must file their claims not later than next Tuesday, July 15, according to Mr. G. H. Harrison here. Claims to tax refunds on all gasoline used by farmers during the months of April, May and June will be considered by the State Department of Revenue.

The offices of the Harrison Oil Company have willingly offered to assist farmers in preparing their claims.

## Property Valuation Increase Is Basis For Ten-cent Reduction

### New Rate Smallest for County Since 1932 When \$1.25 Levy Was in Effect

Martin County's new tax rate was tentatively fixed at \$1.35 per \$100 property valuation by the board of commissioners in recessed session here Wednesday afternoon, the ten-cent reduction in the figure coming as a result of almost three days of budget study. Larger than even the most optimistic had expected, the reduction is among the largest ever effected in a single year in this county, and the rate itself is the smallest since 1932 when a rate of \$1.25 was in force. Reaching a depression depth therefore unheard of by that generation of officials, the commissioners in 1933 found it necessary to bounce the rate up to \$1.60 to care for the budget needs. Since that time the rate trend has been downward, but the reduction this week comes as a climax to all the others as far as size is concerned.

Despite increased appropriations granted several of the county departments—including current expenses for schools and school debt service, the county general fund and the poor or relief fund, the reduction was effected, the officials explaining that the drop was based primarily on an increased property valuation and a decrease in the county debt service requirements. The new rate, it was explained, reflects budget requirements as they exist at the present time, and no effort was made to build up any sizable reserves. This course of action is likely to result in an upward trend in the rate next year when the county debt service will be \$5,000 greater than it was this year. But the commissioners decided to let each year stand on its own footing, and if an increase in the rate is necessary in 1942, let it come then and not at the present time.

While the tax levy offers a fairly good index of the trend in governmental costs, it does not reflect revenue expected from sources other than general taxation. For instance, the current expense fund for schools this year is about \$3,000 greater than it was last year, but the rate is increased by only one-half cent in that department. A greater income from sources other than taxation is anticipated. Decreases in "outside" revenue expected by some of the other departments are likely. A decrease in the sale of privilege licenses such as permits for the operation of slot machines is almost certain since the devices have been virtually eliminated in the county.

It is estimated that \$226,828.67 will be required to run the county during the 1941-42 fiscal year as compared with \$223,507.96 last fiscal year, meaning that while the tax rate is actually smaller this year than last, the tax levy will be virtually the same, or about \$177,000. The remainder is expected from sources other than general taxation.

The tentative budget figures for 1941-42 are compared with the 1940-41 expenditures, as follows: Schools, current expense, \$30,423 and \$26,930; capital outlay, \$11,700 and \$12,210; debt service, \$43,635 and \$43,521; County general fund, \$48,587.20 and \$45,102; poor or relief fund, \$33,958.04 and \$28,737.84; health department, \$7,790 and \$8,130; debt service, \$50,735 and \$58,877.02.

A comparison of the rates for the

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## Town Clerk Moves To Modern Office

Town headquarters—the office of the treasurer—are now located in the modern office recently renovated in the old town hall. Mrs. C. A. James, clerk, moved into the modernized office Wednesday.

Remodeling work on other offices for the mayor and police department is nearing completion, and they will be located in their new quarters the latter part of next week or early in the following week. The police department, sharing the clerk's office and the commissioners' room all these years, is being reduced in size to accommodate the mayor and his court. Mayor J. L. Hassell will abandon the little wooden office occupied for years by the late Dr. J. B. H. Knight across the street as soon as his new office is completed.

Work on the new library room in the rear of the town hall is just about complete and the library forces plan to move in some time next week. Access to the library is to be had in the alley between the town hall and Attorney Wheeler Martin's office.