

Busy Day Reported In The Old County Courthouse Monday

Illegitimate Birth Report, Weird In Its Details, Climaxes Day for Sheriff

It was a busy day in the county's old hall of justice Monday and especially in the office of the sheriff where weird crime news was heard over the radio, telephone, by word of mouth and even in poorly written letters.

Attention was centered in the regular session of the county court, at first. A varied crime docket was heard there with a number of alleged tax law violations capping the calendar. The court session over, officers branched out and before the day was over alleged violators of the laws were being brought in first by one officer and then another. Sandwiched in with it all was a report telling of an illegitimate birth under unusual circumstances, which someone suggested should be investigated. Names were closely guarded, but unofficial reports gained outside the sheriff's office placed the deplorable event among the white population in an outlying district. A young woman, hardly more than 18 years of age, was taken ill last Friday while her folks with the exception of a child brother were away working in tobacco fields. He was said to have fanned her until she ran out of the house. The child, born in the back yard, was left lying there by the mother who dragged herself back to the house. The boy picked the child up, carried it into the house and ran for help. Neighbors called for a midwife. The midwife called for a doctor. Last reports stated that the mother and the little babe were getting along very well. An expectant mother, a sister of the young girl in the unusual case reported last Friday, was said to have appealed to officers for help in running down some young man to help care for her second illegitimate child when it sees the light in this "Christian" land. The betting is ten to one around the courthouse that there'll be more and smaller subjects for the welfare department now and ere long.

Wrapped up with warrants charging several hundred persons with failing to list their property, the sheriff's office was more like a beehive than an office Monday. Tax warrants were pushed into the background in favor of more rushing business. There was a warrant for a young man who had issued a worthless check. There was a warrant for a young man who did not register for possible military service. There was a capias calling for Ben Rogers' arrest for not having paid the cost in the case in which he was tried and found guilty of cutting a young white man nearly to death a short time ago. There were papers calling for the arrest of two or three persons who failed to answer when called in open court Monday morning. Prisoners were to be moved from the jail to the prison camp. ABC officers were in and out answering calls. Two special State officers were in the office making ready to assist in State ABC control work. Several persons, thinking it best to list their property after all, were in to get their names on the books and pay their taxes. Warrants were mixed and even this morning the officers were weeding out those papers that had been served from those yet to be served. The business was handled with dispatch. A person standing charged with a law violation either furnished bond or went to jail. There was no dillydallying around the courthouse Monday.

Three Funerals Are Held In Single Day

Funeral services for three colored citizens were conducted here last Sunday afternoon, the oldest among the population recalling no time when that many funerals were held here in a single afternoon.

Warren Gray, 86 years old, died in a Washington hospital Thursday morning following an illness of only a few days. He had been in declining health for some time, but his condition was not regarded as serious until on Sunday before his death the following Thursday. Funeral services were conducted in the Cornerstone Baptist Church and interment was in the Whitley Cemetery in Williams Township. Gray, a respected citizen, was a native of Williams Township and is survived by three sons. Rev. Hopkins, Methodist minister, conducted the last rites.

Mary Andrews, about 60 years of age and wife of Judge Andrews, died at her home on West Church Street Thursday morning. The last rites were conducted in the A. M. E. Zion church Sunday afternoon by her pastor, Rev. Hopkins. Interment was in the Odd Fellows Cemetery. Funeral services were held at the Everett funeral home Sunday afternoon for Asa Tom Sherrord who lost his life in an automobile accident on West Main Street here Thursday evening. Rev. L. T. Bond officiated. Interment was in the old family plot not far from the old brick kiln on the McCaskey Road.

First Of Band Concerts And Good Will Meetings Planned

Sponsored by the local Chamber of Commerce, the first in a series of band concerts and good will meetings will be held in the Bear Grass High School auditorium Thursday evening of this week at 8:30 o'clock (daylight saving time), it was announced today by Dick Smith, the organization's secretary. A second meeting in the series will be held on Friday night of this week at the same hour in the Farm Life High School. Tentative plans have been made for similar concerts at Colerain on Wednesday afternoon, August 20; at Macedonia Thursday night, August 21st, and at Oak City on Monday, August 25th.

Director Frank Butler has his band of 35 pieces ready for the tours, and local people are invited and urged to take part. Marked by the absence of any commercial design and planned free to all who will favor the young musicians with their presence.

AGAIN!

Having entered the Peele Jewelry Store here twice in recent weeks and three times within the past two years, robbers attempted another break-in last Friday night, it was learned from police headquarters Saturday.

The store owners had nailed up the skylight, the main entrance used by the robbers in the past, and the plans were foiled.

Police report no developments in the last two robberies, but they are still working on the cases.

Twelve Couples Get License To Marry in County During July

Issuance Drops To New Low Point For Year; Still Largest in Three Years

After reaching up into record numbers during the first six months in this year, the issuance of marriage licenses in the county dropped to a new low figure for 1941 last month, the office of Register J. Sam Gotsinger reporting twelve licenses were issued during July. The issuance was evenly divided among the races. Although it was the smallest for the year to date, the issuance last month was larger than that either for July, 1940, or July, 1939. In July, a year ago, only seven licenses were issued in this county.

The lowest July issuance recorded in recent years was reported in July, 1931, when only three licenses were issued, one to white and two to colored couples. The largest July issuance on record was reported in 1936 when 11 white and 13 colored couples were married in this county.

Licenses were issued by the office of the Martin County Register of Deeds last month to the following:

White
James Oscar Daniel, of Everetts, and Virginia Lucille McLawhorn, of Williamston.

Chester Edward Williams, of Windsor R.F.D. 2, and Otis Mae Cullipher, of Windsor.

James A. Modlin, of Jamesville, and Lillie Gray Cotrain, of R.F.D. 1, Williamston.

Albert Lee Sherman and Minnie Kathleen Price, both of Williamston.

Thomas Carl Brown, of Raleigh, and Frances Elizabeth Ward, of Robersonville.

Colored

Charley Bellamy and Minnie Bell Ruffin, both of Williamston.

Johannie Turner and Hattie Williams, both of Palmyra.

Arthur Lee Teel and Willie Blanche Mills, both of Williamston.

John Ellis, of Williamston, and Rosa Ella Williams, of Robersonville.

John W. Bond and Evelyn Outlaw, both of Windsor.

Few Volunteers At Production Unit

Opening its production unit in the Woman's Club building this morning, the Martin County chapter of the American Red Cross reported few callers at the hall for material with which to make articles of clothing for the needy in the troubled and war-stricken peoples of Europe.

The weather was hot and it was not convenient for many to call for the material, it was explained. Numbers of volunteers are expected to report for goods next Friday between the hours of 10 and 5 o'clock. The production unit will remain open each Tuesday and Friday between those hours.

The weather may be hot and the bridge schedules may have to be maintained, but our people are reminded that war does not stop on account of hot weather and it is possible that the shooting will not be delayed any great length of time for bridge.

The meetings are designed to create good will and tighten the bonds of friendship. Business men and Mayor John L. Hassell will accompany the band, but the speaking will be limited to a matter of five minutes, and the concert program will last not more than 40 minutes. The entertainment feature will be stressed and the public is cordially invited to attend the meetings.

The band will meet for each of the trips except Colerain at 7:30 at the high school. Business men and others are also asked to meet there and attend as many of the concerts as possible. Employers are cordially asked to excuse the band members for the concerts.

An evening of splendid entertainment is assured everyone, and a cordial invitation is extended to all to be present at any or all of the concerts. The young musicians are working hard, and they will appreciate your presence.

Army Calling For No White Selectees For Month of September

Four of Last Eleven White Men To Leave for Fort Bragg Are Rejected

Young white selectees in this county got their first "break" since the Selective Service System was instituted this week when the Army announced it would need none of them during the month of September. Heavy white quotas have been assigned the county in months past, and a reduction in the calls had been anticipated. It is possible that a call will be issued later in the month, but one is not likely, according to draft board clerk, Marion Cobb.

Eleven colored men are scheduled to report for service on September 18th.

Ten white selectees, including three volunteers, reported for service at Fort Bragg last Wednesday but four of them were rejected on account of physical defects, it was learned. The names of the boys returning from the induction center are Jesse Wilson Griffin, Augustus Edison Moore, Julius Lee Revels and Elbert Harvey Whitchard. No report has been received from the other young men.

Fifteen colored men are slated to leave the county on Friday of next week for Fort Bragg. The names of the men are to be posted this week. Only six of the group have definitely passed their preliminary physical tests, and it is possible that the county will not meet its quota this month, it was learned from the draft board office.

Activities outside the draft board office are increasing, one report stating that about as many young Martin County men are volunteering their services as are being called by the draft authorities. Three young men, O. S. Anderson, Jr., T. F. Davenport and S. W. Manning, Jr., entered the Army Air Corps last week, and after a stay of a few days at Camp Lee, Va., left this morning for Missouri for three months of schooling. Four other local young men, Sam Nelson, Dick Miller, Albert and Hubert Cooke are volunteering at Norfolk for service in the Army Air Corps tomorrow, subject to physical examinations. Oscar Robertson, of Robersonville, is also reporting for voluntary service tomorrow.

The first Martin County selectee, Arthur Nicholson, of Williamston, Route 1, has been discharged from the Army. Entering the service about last March, Nicholson had been a patient in the Army hospital for several months, it was learned.

Farm Leaders Hold Meeting Yesterday

Recognized farm leaders from several sections of eastern North Carolina met in an executive session here yesterday afternoon, the nature of their business being withheld from the public. "We discussed the purchase of additional pasture seed," R. C. Holland, president of the North Carolina Peanut Stabilization Cooperative, declared.

Holland was here meeting with D. Bari Fearing, of Windsor; W. Robert Everett, of Palmyra; E. G. Arnold, of Raleigh, and Lewis Hassell, of Roper. All of these men are closely connected with the peanut stabilization cooperative, and it is possible they were discussing the recent peanut price schedule which "pegs" the price of the goobers at \$89 a ton or about four and one-half cents a pound.

It was the expressed opinion of several of the group that that price was about in line with other commodities, but they were also of the opinion that the price may be boosted to around five cents a pound for the type of peanuts produced in this section.

Farmers are not certain of the condition of the peanut crop, some stating that the vines are withering and that the prospects are not bright.

This Week In Defense

President Roosevelt placed airplane fuels under export control, limiting shipment to points in the Western Hemisphere, the British Empire and unoccupied territories of countries resisting aggression. Secretary Hull told his press conference any move of Japan into Thailand would be a matter of concern to the United States. Treasury Secretary Morgenthau announced the lend-lease administration has ordered 10,000,000 yards of cotton grey goods to make uniforms for Chinese soldiers.

Aid To Russia
The State Department announced extension of the trade agreement between the U.S.S.R. and the United States until August 6, 1942, to insure "continuance during the emergency period of our established commercial relations with the Soviet Union on the basis of the 1937 commercial agreement." Russia will pay cash or will earmark gold for all materials bought, the Department said.

Silk
The Office of Production Management "froze" all silk supplies in the country because minimum requirements of the Army and Navy for silk powder bags and parachutes will consume total stocks. Price Administrator Henderson said the action should not result in retail stocking price increases for stocks on hand. OPM formed a special commodity section to handle problems of obtaining substitute materials, allocating rayon yarn and manufacturing capacity.

Federal Security Administrator McNutt called for immediate registration by State Employment Services of the approximately 175,000 silk industry workers being forced out of work by the raw silk shortage. The Department of Agriculture reported more than 150 different cotton stocking designs are available to the hosiery industry, and stated 89 per cent of the 16,000 knitting machines can knit cotton as well as silk.

Army
The War Department announced a campaign to convert to armament production thousands of consumer-goods factories facing eventual shutdown because of diversion of raw materials to the defense program, and said it already has a list of 500 such plants.

The Department expanded its officer candidate schools to provide opportunities for one in each 100 soldiers to receive a commission. Advancement during the first year will be available to about 58 per cent of all trainees, the Department said. It reported 100 Canadian officers and 65 junior officers from the Latin American Republics are now enrolled in various courses with the U. S. Army.

Selective Service
The Senate passed legislation authorizing extension of service of Selectees, Guardsmen and Reserves from 12 months to 30 months, and of enlisted men from three to 4 1/2 years. The legislation provides for a salary increase of \$10 a month for every month served in excess of one year. Congress also approved legislation deferring from military service all men who had reached their 28th birthday July 1, and authorizing resignation of men already inducted who became 28 before July 1 and whose discharge is not found contrary to the best interests of the Army.

Oil
Petroleum Coordinator Ickes said he was satisfied with first results of the nightly blackout of East Coast gasoline stations, but asked motorists to redouble efforts to cut mo-

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Tenant Lives Out Of Landlord's Smokehouse

It was a convenient arrangement as long as it lasted, but the arrangement has been interrupted at the direction of the sheriff and Evans Stokes, tenant farmer, is not living out of the same smokehouses with his landlord, Oscar Peel, any more.

Mr. Peel had been missing his rat a little at the time. The sheriff was called and a nice ham and an equally as good a shoulder were found yesterday. The sale was traced to Stokes. Landlord Peel was astounded to learn that it was his tenant who had been living with him out of his smokehouse.

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DELINQUENT

Cooperating with draft board authorities, the law yesterday reached out and snatched Durdward Teel, Robersonville Negro, for allegedly failing or refusing to register on July 1 for possible military service. A second warrant, charging violation of the Selective Service Act, is being drawn in this county, but the name was withheld pending an arrest.

Teel was placed in the county jail yesterday and will be registered by Draft Board Clerk Marion Cobb today before the case is turned over to Federal authorities. It was the first arrest effected in this county in which a subject failed to register.

Early Sales On The Border Averaging Around 26 Cents

Early sales on the South Carolina and Border Belt Tobacco Markets this morning were averaging around 26 cents a pound, according to first reports reaching here early this afternoon. The 26-cent figure compares with an average of 17 to 20 cents reported a year ago.

The first report received on the markets was filed at noon by Johnny Gurkin, local tobaccoist, who was visiting the border markets with Messrs. John A. Manning, Sylvester Lilley and Jimmy Gurkin this morning. "Price average around 26 cents," Mr. Gurkin wired after following the early sales at Fairmont.

The unofficial averages reported early this afternoon for the entire belt ranged from 22 to 30 cents. Sizeable offerings were fairly general, and quality was centered in the inferior and higher types, the first reports indicating a scarcity of the

medium grade types. Farmers were reported to be unusually well pleased. Government estimates, released on the eve of the opening, pointed to a reduction in the crop ranging as high as 12 per cent in some areas of the belt, and about 7 per cent in the Bright Belt in this section.

Individual reports were released early this afternoon by the following markets: Tabor City, \$22.60 average with prices ranging from 4 to 38 cents; Whiteville, \$27.85 average with a price range of 4 to 37 cents; Conway (S. C.) \$27.50 average with a top price of 45 cents; Timmons-ville, \$28 average; Loris, \$27.70 average; Kingstree, price range from 2 to 37 cents with a resulting average of 25 cents. At Mullins, 1,800,000 pounds were offered for sale. The first 31,000 pounds sold there averaged \$26.49, the market reporting a top price of 50 cents.

Violators Of Tax Laws Prosecuted In County

Day Of Reckoning Is Reached Monday In County's Court

List and Pay Taxes Up To Date Or Go To The Roads, Judge Orders

It was a day of reckoning in the county recorder's court Monday for a number of defendants who for one reason or another had not listed their property or subjected themselves to poll tax in accordance with the law.

Any belief entertained by the alleged violators of the tax laws that the tax authorities were only fooling when they, armed with an order from Superior Court Judge W. C. Harris, started a round-up of non-listers, was knocked into a cocked hat when the final show-down came in Judge W. H. Coburn's court Monday morning. After the defendants pleaded guilty, Judge Coburn explained that he had no other alternative except to follow the dictates of the law, and in accordance with the law he sentenced the defendants to the roads for thirty days, the sentence to be suspended upon payment of all taxes, including the 1941 accounts, and the costs of the action.

The tax authorities were hardly ready to take their stand with the prosecution when the first cases were called, but no delays are anticipated when the next cases are called.

Some of the defendants scheduled for trial failed to appear and papers were ordered issued for their immediate arrests. If they are unable to give bond for their appearance next Monday, they are to be jailed in accordance with an order of the court. At least one defendant was held in jail over the week end to answer in one of the tax suits Monday morning.

The first case called was against James Walston. The prosecution explained that the tax accounts had been paid after the case had been booked for trial and the defendant was not present.

The second case was that against Ivan Griffin. When he failed to answer the court ordered his arrest.

Several unusual stories were heard from the defendants, but only one was accepted. Charles B. Bonds, charged with having failed to list his property, told the court that he was on the roads last January. Asked if he listed last year, Bonds explained he was on the roads. It was then brought out that Bonds came to Williamston about ten years ago, that

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Mauraders Enter High School Here

Gaining an entrance through an auditorium window and breaking through a transom over the door, mauraders stole a few articles, including an old pistol used in a play last spring, from the principal's office in the high school building here some time during last Friday night. Quite a few finger prints were photographed and placed in police files and a round-up of two or three vagrants is expected.

During recent weeks, numbers of children, both white and colored, have been seen playing around the school building as late as midnight. They are known to have done some damage to the property and while police would not say so it is believed that children were in the recent escapade.

Reports from all over the county with one or two exceptions state that school properties are subjected to heavy bombardments during the vacation months, that the cost of repairing the damage runs into a fairly big sum.

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Germans Continuing Push Into Russia's Rich Ukraine Area

Tension Reaching New High Point in Far East As Japan Goes On War Footing

Little encouragement accompanied the late reports coming from the Russo-German front where the invaders are continuing their push even deeper into the Ukrainian area, threatening the Black Sea port of Odessa. While Hitler's mouth organs were claiming the Russian army had been routed, reliable sources declared that the Soviet forces were withdrawing in good order and to that fact some hope is held for the Russian situation. Ignoring cost in human life and property, estimates of which are really staggering, Hitler is pushing forward, his apparent successes apparently stiffening Japan's attitude toward Britain and America. To the stand Russia is making are attached far-reaching plans for the future. If Russia cannot stand the terrific pounding being given her by Germany in the East, it is likely that Japan will move in Siberia instead of Thailand. The Japanese situation is believed by some military observers to be at the breaking point, that important and far-reaching developments are now to be expected in the Far East.

Japan put herself on a full economic war footing yesterday under the general mobilization act while her returning minister to Washington bluntly counseled his people that the United States is prepared and determined to meet the worst eventualities.

The diplomat, Kaname Wakasugi, at Los Angeles on his way home to confer on the "delicate issue" of Thailand, gave a transpic telephonic interview which pictured the United States and Japan as each unwilling to "start anything," but stressed American preparedness under a "definitely changed" attitude toward Japan.

Details were withheld, but Britain and the United States, are said to have outlined a plan and submitted it to Japan with the understanding that she is to take it or leave it.

Late reports from the long Russo-German front stated that Russia was hurling additional forces, including the dashing Cossack Cavalry, into action in an effort to stem the sweeping tide of the Germans through the Ukraine. Advances were reported in the Leningrad area by the Germans, but at Smolensk, on the road to Moscow, the Germans were pushed backward, leaving the Russian city still in the hands of the Soviets despite a month-old claim that the Germans had captured it.

It is apparent that Germany's third great offensive is well underway, that Hitler and his barbarians are making every effort to reach their objectives in Russia before the winter sets in. From the latter part of this month until about the middle of October, campaign conditions in most of Russia are said to be nearest ideal. British and American aid now would prove of untold value.

In other European centers, the tide continues to turn in favor of Hitler. Petain is moving into closer collaboration with Hitler, and Admiral Darlan, Hitler's crony, has been placed in charge of the French Empire, the action virtually ruling out General Weygand who it was believed the Allies could depend on for maintaining at least a neutral stand.

The domestic outlook was considered a little brighter today when it was announced that one Bob Reynolds, the thing North Carolina has in Washington for a United States senator, was planning to leave the capital for an inspection trip in Iceland.

Bitter debate is marking the route for the bill proposing an extension of time for all service men. Argument got underway two hours earlier than usual this morning, and a vote delayed yesterday by a death in the House, is expected late today.

Far-reaching changes in the in-

No Date Fixed For Paving River Fill

Another week is rolling by and no definite date for starting the Roanoke River fill project at this point has been fixed. No operations are possible before some time next week, late reports from the contracting firm stating that certain equipment shipped on August 4th from Spartanburg, South Carolina, had not reached here and that the paver had not been loaded for shipment but that it was due to be loaded and shipped from Greenville, South Carolina, shortly. Two truckloads of paving forms reached here this morning, giving rise to the hope that work on the project will be started some time.

Travel over the route jumped back almost to normal over the week-end after highway authorities had the detour signs removed on Saturday. Traffic is now moving over the dirt fill easily at 30 to 40 miles an hour, and it is reported that the paving contractor will make every effort to expedite the flow of traffic while work on the road is in progress.