

Market Opens With Prices Highest Since First War

Child Is Seriously Hurt When Struck By Truck in County

Two Other Accidents of Minor Nature Reported During Past Week-end

James Wesley Perkins, seven years old, was critically hurt when he dashed into the highway about one-quarter of a mile north of Gold Point last Friday afternoon at 5:15 o'clock and into the path of a highway truck driven by Edgar Hyman Harrell, of Oak City. Suffering fractures of each thigh and a possible skull injury, the lad was removed to a Greenville hospital where late reports described his condition as being critical.

Investigating the accident, Sergeant L. L. Jackson, of the State Highway Patrol, stated that the child was watching a highway truck pulling a mowing machine down the road and did not see the other truck driven by Mr. Harrell. As far as it could be learned, no hearing has as yet been scheduled in the case.

Living with his parents over in La Grange, the lad was in this county visiting his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Perkins.

The accident was one of a series reported in the county during the week-end. The other two accidents, according to Patrolman Whit Saunders who investigated them, were of a minor nature, no one being hurt and little damage resulting to property.

Dennis Roosevelt Barber was making a left-hand turn into his home in Williams Township about nine o'clock last Saturday night when his car was struck by a pick-up truck driven by A. P. Coltrain. Coltrain almost avoided the crash, but the back end of the truck swerved and tore into the car. The damage to the car was estimated at \$50, the patrolman stating that about \$25 would repair the damage to the truck.

About 11:30 o'clock, Robert B. Nelson, of Robersonville, hit a light pick-up truck owned by the Roberson Slaughter House and driven by Jasper B. Davis about a mile out of Hamilton on Highway 125. Davis was slowing down to stop his truck, and Nelson, his vision impaired by rain and fog on the road, did not see it until too late to avoid the crash. Mr. Nelson was accompanied by Mrs. Nelson, their baby and a nurse. No one was hurt. Damage to the car was estimated at about \$75. Very little damage was done to the truck.

This morning about 4:30 o'clock Sergeant Ben F. Thomas of the Marine Air Corps with headquarters in Quantico, was painfully but believed not seriously hurt when his car crashed through a barricade on the Washington highway near the old Sylvester Webb home. Thomas, who had been flying planes south and traveling back in his car, was found unconscious a short time later by Patrolman Whit Saunders. Removed to the local hospital, Thomas regained consciousness and was able to continue to Quantico with Sergeant Frank Foster who was also making a return trip over land. Thomas was badly cut in the face and on the top of his head. Damage to his car was estimated at \$100.

Federal Graders Start Work On Market Here This Morning

Growing out of an experimental system in effect on the local market some years ago, federal tobacco graders went into action here this morning, offering the farmers a fairly accurate picture of the price situation and trends in grades. The new service, offered by the government without direct expense to the farmer, carries certain possibilities that may become realities in the years to come. Already there is well-founded talk about effecting a stabilization cooperative for tobacco similar to the one in operation for peanut farmers during recent years. The government grader will fit well into that picture in addition to the service he will offer from day to day.

Four graders, Messrs. J. A. Terrell, of Chapel Hill; Cecil Gossett, of Tennessee; Ashley H. Kennedy, of LaGrange, and Mr. Covington, of

Nashville, Tenn., have been assigned to the local market. Mr. Terrell is well remembered here as an accommodating and thoughtful buyer for the Export Tobacco Company. The men started their work an hour ahead of sales this morning. Mr. Kennedy will fill in the grades behind the buyers and the graders and prices will be tabulated and posted early tomorrow morning.

The grading referendum was held late in the year, and after floor tags had been printed. The old tags can be used, but the graders will be slightly handicapped by having to use the back of the sheet instead of a regularly designated spot on the front.

The "break" was described as fair by the graders late yesterday following an hurried inspection of the first sale.

This Week In Defense

In a radio address to the Army on the reasons for extension of selective service, War Secretary Stimson said the Government realized the personal sacrifice of additional service but was also conscious of the danger to the U. S. He said "some of the most significant symptoms... which invariably forecast the coming of a new Axis attack... are occurring in South America... the most dangerous avenue of attack against us."

The War Department announced that unless the international situation becomes more serious it intends to release by December 10 approximately 150,000 National Guardsmen inducted last fall. 20,000 selectees inducted last November and December, and 10,000 Reserve officers. The releases will be made upon application in accordance with the following priorities: dependency and hardship, age of more than 28, on July 1, 1941, and marriage for those who have served 12 months. Men completing enlistments will also be released on request.

Early Sales Here This Morning Jubilant Over Prices Received

Farmers Will Start Planning For The New Crop Year Soon

Hardly before the 1940 marketing season gets underway, Martin County farmers are being asked to start making plans for another crop year.

The basic plans for the new crop season are to be considered when individual farmers meet with their respective committees on September 11 and 12 at places to be designated later. The early approach to the farm problem will enable farmers to handle certain tasks before this year is spent and which will build up credits for payments next year, it was pointed out by the office of the county agent.

Farmers will be asked to study the new contracts covering the 1942 program which, for the most part, will be the same as it was for the current year. Soil building practices and methods for carrying out those practices will be explained by the com-

mittees, giving the participating farmer an opportunity to earn maximum soil conservation payments under the 1942 program. It was pointed out that the 1942 soil conservation payments will be based on required soil building practices, meaning that certain conditions must be met by the farmer before he is eligible for the benefit of soil conservation checks.

The office of the county agent has ordered a carload of winter rye which can be seeded and counted for credit in the 1942 program. It is not likely that grants of aid will be made in connection with the 1942 program because of a reported seed shortage. It is possible for farmers to meet the soil building requirements, however, and the methods and other plans for the 1942 program will be reviewed when farmers, and committees meet on September 11 and 12.

16,580 Pounds Sold In First Half Hour For \$5,074.48 Gross

Estimated Nearly Half Million Pounds of Leaf on Floors Here Today

Prices jumping up to levels unheard of since the first World War brought cheery smiles to farmers' faces and brightened the financial outlook for this agricultural section as the new tobacco marketing season got underway here this morning at promptly 9:30 o'clock. With prices even exceeding their fondest expectations, farmers were really jubilant and every one out of an even hundred hurriedly interviewed was greatly pleased with the prices received.

During the first thirty minutes this morning, the market sold 16,580 pounds for \$5,074.48 or a resulting average of \$30.61. The average was determined by actual sales and is not based on estimates. The quality of tobacco on the first few rows was only of fair to medium quality, and there was a fairly definite upward trend. The first average "struck" ranged right around 29 cents, the second row went over 30, the remainder of the sales "covered" in the early morning market review placing the average for the first 30 minutes of selling at \$30.61.

John Bland, an expert tobacco farmer, declared that prices today are the highest since the first World War. Other farmers were agreed with Bland, and still others were agreed that tobacco is selling good. Pleading comment was heard from every farmer questioned, and as a whole, the group of farmers and spectators crowding into the first sale was about as happy as any ever seen.

Top prices, apparently "fixed" at 39 cents are not as high as some recorded in past years, but so much of the leaf is selling in the 30 to 39-cent range. One or two piles sold for 40 cents and one sold for 43 cents. The lowest price pile was four cents, but these sales were comparatively few with the range taking a strong hold in the middle twenties and continuing up to 39 cents.

One lag was turned in the early sales, but the farmer was said to have reconsidered the action and after comparing his sale with others, he apparently realized he had received a good price.

Able judges of tobacco comparing sales on the border belt with those here today were of the opinion that the prices being paid here for the poorer quality grades are higher than those paid on the border a week ago. They pointed out, however, that the better quality grades were commanding about the same prices as those received on the border.

Individual averages were reported in the high thirties this morning. Farmer Simon A. Perry sold 608 pounds for \$218.04, an average of nearly 36 cents. Farmer Elbert Heath sold five piles with prices ranging from 23 to 39 cents. His was nearly an average sale. There were a few small lots of less than a hundred pounds that sold considerably below the general average, but the tobacco was recognized as scalded plant leaves or suckers which had possibly been picked up by the children.

Sales Supervisor Henry S. Johnson estimated that there were between 400,000 and 475,000 pounds of the (Continued on page six)

Stabilization Program For Tobacco Possible

INCREASE

An increased activity was reported on the crime front in the county over the week-end, but the alleged violations were of no serious consequence, a report from the office of the sheriff stated. Six persons were arrested and jailed during the period as compared with two arrests reported the previous week-end.

Regrettable though it may be, the marketing season ushers in a crime wave of varying proportions, and Jailer Roy Peel is tidying up the old jail house and making ready for the rush. No arrests had been reported early today as the marketing season got underway.

Proposed Program Is Similar To Plan For Storing Peanut Crop

Farm Leaders Said To Have Discussed Plan at Meeting In County Recently

Taking action to head-off a possible drop in tobacco prices, farm leaders last week met with agricultural authorities in Washington and proposed what has been described as a parallel to the North Carolina Peanut Stabilization Cooperative for handling tobacco. The work of the proposed cooperative would be dependent upon tobacco price trends, meaning that as long as prices hold to a point above a certain level no action will be taken, it is understood.

Holding an executive session in this county week before last, farm leaders from several counties proposed the organization of a tobacco cooperative. Going to Washington with their plan, the farm group was assured of support in that quarter.

The following story was released over the week-end by a committee of the proposed organization:

At the request of some of the tobacco farmers in Northeastern North Carolina the Peanut Stabilization Cooperative, Inc., Edenton, N. C., arranged for a conference with Mr. J. B. Hutson, President of Commodity Credit Corporation, Washington, D. C., to discuss the manner and method that could be used by tobacco growers in obtaining 85 per cent of parity loans on tobacco, if such loans should prove to be necessary to protect the tobacco growers' interest during the current tobacco marketing season. A committee consisting of three members of the Board of Directors of Peanut Stabilization Cooperative, Inc., and the following tobacco growers attended the conference with Mr. Hutson in Washington, D. C., last Wednesday morning:

T. R. Whitehead, Halifax County; R. L. Corbitt, Edgecombe County; R. V. Knight, Edgecombe County; Claude L. Green, Martin County; Hugh Roberson, Martin County; J. B. Fearing, Bertie County; L. E. Hassell, Washington County, and R. C. Holland, Chowan County. Also present at the conference were Mr. H. T. Westcott, marketing specialist, N. C. Department of Agriculture, Raleigh, N. C., and Mr. E. F. Arnold, Raleigh, N. C.

Mr. Hutson assured those attending the meeting that if the level of prices on tobacco should decline below the parity level and it should appear that it would work to the advantage of the tobacco growers to obtain loans from Commodity Credit Corporation—that Commodity Credit Corporation would take immediate and effective steps to protect the interest of the tobacco growers under the authority of law for granting (Continued on page six)

Officers Destroy Three Distilleries

Staging a feeble comeback after being virtually eliminated during the past few months, the illicit liquor business continues to meet with a determined opposition at the hands of ABC Officer J. H. Roebuck.

Yesterday, the officer and his assistant, Jailer Roy Peel, wrecked a plant on Reedy Swamp in Williams Township and poured out two barrels of beer. The plant, a rather crude outfit, had a gasoline barrel for a kettle, a ten-gallon keg for a cap and pump pipe for connections.

Last week, the officers, raiding along the Martin-Washington boundary, wrecked a large plant including 10 barrels of beer, five gallons of liquor and the 150-gallon capacity copper kettle. The plant was in operation when the raid was made, but the operator, hearing gun signals, beat a hasty retreat to safety. Pitt and Beaufort officers assisted in the raid.

The officer also visited the Stingy Point section of Robersonville Township and wrecked a steam plant and poured out three barrels of beer.

While the ABC officer was working the wholesalers, local Officer J. H. Allsbrooks was rounding up the retailers. A small quantity of liquor was found yesterday on the town outskirts.

Start Paving the Fill Saturday Afternoon

Scheduled to have been completed weeks ago, work on the Roanoke River fill paving project was finally started last Saturday afternoon when the first batch of concrete was poured. Approximately 200 feet of the concrete mixture was laid that afternoon. Work, halted at that time, was not resumed until about noon yesterday and except for one or two brief interruptions the pavers made considerable progress.

Engineers estimate that approximately 1,500 feet of the concrete material can be laid during the 12-hour work day, one report stating that 530 feet of concrete were poured during four hours yesterday afternoon and that with fair weather the pavers should reach Conine Creek by the latter part of this week.

Traffic has been unusually heavy over the route during the past few days with the number of tourists increasing and with farmers in Bertie and other counties across the river and sound moving their tobacco in large quantities.

Mrs. J. Levy Dies At Home In Tarboro

Mrs. J. Levy, mother of Mrs. Irving Margolis, of Williamston, died at her home in Tarboro yesterday following an illness of long duration. Mrs. Levy, well known in this section of North Carolina, had spent much of the summer here with her daughter. She was 58 years old and a member of the Tarboro Temple. Funeral services were held at 12 o'clock today at the home by Rabbi Wernick. Interment was in the Pineview Cemetery, Rocky Mount.

Besides her daughter here, Mrs. Levy is survived by Mr. Levy, a daughter, Miss Jennie Levy, of Tarboro; a son, Theodore Levy, also of Tarboro, and a brother, Eli Atkins, of Manchester, England.

Be Careful With the AAA Cotton Stamps

Following the unfortunate burning of a farm home in North Carolina and the loss in the fire of AAA cotton stamps worth \$50, E. Y. Floyd, State AAA executive assistant at State College, urged farmers to observe every precaution against the possible loss, theft, or destruction of the stamps.

Stamps which are lost, stolen, or defaced beyond identification will not be replaced, Mr. Floyd said. Defaced stamps which can be identified as legal stickers, will be replaced, it was added.

Allies Beat Nazis To Little Country Of Iran This Week

Russians Still Offering Strong Resistance to Germans in Leningrad March

Taking a leaf out of Germany's book, Great Britain and Russia stole the march on Hitler yesterday when their forces moved into the little country of Iran, the action being described as a move to head off the German barbarians.

Throwing up their first joint battlefront of the war to link the Soviet Union with the British Empire, the British and Russian forces were reported to be encountering steadily increasing resistance from Iran's army of about 150,000 men.

Fears mounted that Adolf Hitler, beaten to the gun in Iran as he was in nearby Iraq and Syria, might launch a counter-thrust across Turkey, and from Istanbul came an unconfirmed report that Germany already has promised to send aid to Iran if the desert kingdom's army holds out for a month.

Striking without warning at dawn Monday, British and Russian armies which may total 100,000 men invaded Iran at five points stretching from the Caspian Sea down to the Persian Gulf, where British warships waited ready to aid the attack after landing British Imperial Forces.

British spokesmen said that "resistance" had been encountered and the German radio said that Russian planes early Monday had bombed "without warning" the railroad center of Tabriz, second city of Iran, lying 75 miles south of Russia's Caucasian border.

The Russian aerial attack on the key point of the railroad line to Russia was said to have killed or wounded Iranian civilians.

British authorities said that the attack launched simultaneously from the Persian Gulf, from Iraq, and from Russian Casacia had given the Anglo-Soviet three vital advantages:

1. Wiped out Germany's plottings to make Iran a base and springboard for an assault on Russia's Baku oil district and perhaps on Turkey and British India.
2. Thrown up a joint battlefront and procured a route for the flow of war materials which the United States and Britain have promised Russia.
3. Assured menaced Turkey of the "solid support" of the armed forces of Russia and Britain.

The British were reported to have thrown six or seven divisions into the invasion, including 3,000 troops from India, while the Russians struck (Continued on page six)

Markets Uniform In Eastern Belt

A marked uniformity in prices was noted in the early reports coming from nearly all of the eastern Carolina tobacco markets this morning, the news releases showing an average ranging from 27 to slightly above 30 cents. No record deliveries or "breaks" were reported in the early news releases.

The reported average of 27-30 cents compared with an opening day figure of \$17.86, a year ago.

Greenville reported a price average ranging from 26 1/2 cents to 29. In Wilson, the first row sold averaged \$27.50, the price trend climbing later to \$29.45 there. Kinston reported sales ranging from 4 to 39 cents, the warehouses buying a few piles at 40. Smithfield reported an average of 30 cents for its early sales.

Quality, as a whole, was only fair on all the markets, and farmers were said to be greatly pleased with their sales. Few tags were reported turned (Continued on page six)

WAITING

There are a few persons in Martin County who still don't believe the tax authorities are really determined to round up alleged violators of the tax laws. As a result the officers are still rounding up defendants, requiring them to list their properties, pay all taxes, or furnish bond for their appearance in a subsequent session of the county court. In the event the taxes are not paid and bond is not arranged, the defendant is placed in jail. Arthur Lee Brown was arrested and jailed last week-end for having refused or otherwise failed to have listed for taxation.

REACTIONS

Instituting the rationing system here yesterday afternoon, filling station operators reported varied reactions by gasoline patrons. Centering the rationing system on motorists traveling strictly for pleasure, the filling station operators were censured by several motorists. Limited to a five-gallon purchase, a Virginia motorist wanted to know what was wrong with us folks down in Carolina. Another motorist blamed the gasoline shortage on the man at the pump. And that's the way it goes. The filling station operator is being forced to ration gasoline, and some individuals are going ahead and calling for individual pumps.

Swimming Pool To Close Next Sunday

Experiencing a season of limited patronage, Williamston's municipal swimming pool will close next Sunday, August 31, Mayor John L. Hassell announced this morning.

No estimate on the operation losses could be had immediately, but it was pointed out that the patronage this season had been considerably less than it was last year, and the 1940 business was under that for 1939, the first season the pool was opened. The town's annual budget estimate carried a \$600 appropriation for maintaining and operating the pool.

Gasoline Shortage May Be A Reality

While the situation surrounding the gasoline supply may still be confusing, it is fairly certain that some one is going to find his gas tank empty and none to go into it one of these days. The pinch has not been felt in this immediate territory but reports state that rationing is being practiced in other areas.

Deliveries are being reduced to 90 per cent of the actual July requirements, and during the next few days the distributors in accordance with instructions are going to reduce their deliveries to filling stations to 45 per cent of the amount used in the corresponding period of last month.

Some stations are going to sell out before others, but it is indeed apparent that the movement of oil for use in regular channels has been checked and that sooner or later the shortage is going to strike home. Reports telling about hoarding have been heard, but such action will only aggravate a serious situation.

Good Farmer Gets Good Money For His Tobacco

Aside from his wife and two sons, tobacco is the next thing to get his attention, and as a good tobacco farmer John Hardison gets good money for his tobacco. Selling 368 pounds of lugs here today, Farmer Hardison averaged \$37.29 for the lot. And they were "just common quality," to quote the farmer.

Tobacco Board Of Trade In Meeting

W. Iverson Skinner, co-owner and operator of the W. I. Skinner Tobacco Co., was named to head the Williamston Tobacco Board of Trade at a meeting of warehousemen, buyers and other representatives of the industry last evening. H. Leman Barnhill, warehouseman, was elected vice president, and N. K. Harrison continues as secretary and treasurer of the organization.

Various matters of business were discussed, including the election of committees to assure smooth operations for the market.

It was agreed to start sales at 9:30 o'clock, daylight saving time, and continue until 4:30 with an hour for lunch beginning at 1 o'clock.

Messrs. S. C. Griffin, H. L. Barnhill and Dale Harper were named on the membership committee, and Messrs. Jesse Moye, Imperial buyer; A. C. McClure, buyer for the Reynolds Company, and Arthur Beale, of the Washington Tobacco Company, were named on the sales committee.