

## Contract Left For Modernizing Main Street Store Here

### Pender Grocery Is Moving To Harrison Brothers Building

A contract for the modernization of the store building now occupied by the D. Pender Grocery and until recently by the A. and P. Company on Main Street here was let by the owner, Mr. J. E. King, to W. R. Wyatt a few days ago, it was announced yesterday. No contract price was made public, but the project will cost approximately \$15,000, it is believed.

The A. and P. Company surrendered its lease a few weeks ago and suspended its activities when no other building could be had here. D. Pender is planning to move to the Harrison Brothers building next Monday, Lilley's Laundry, maintaining a sub-station in the Harrison building for the past several months, moved to the building formerly occupied by the Flower Shop on East Main Street. Mr. Herbert Lilley also moved to the same building.

Hardly had the contract been signed before the contractor had materials moving for the job. Thousands of brick were placed on the lot yesterday, and machinery and tools are being unloaded today. Work is slated to get underway immediately, one report stating that the contract would be completed on or before next January 1st.

According to present plans, the building will be greatly enlarged and modernized throughout. Approximately 56 feet will be added to the rear of the store, and the front will be replaced by gray brick and white metal. While the structure will not have two stories, the front will be raised considerably and a mezzanine floor will be built into the addition. The structure will embrace all modern innovations within and without, and the will greatly add to the appearance of the business district.

As far as it could be learned no rental lease has been signed.

## Production Center Has Red Cross Flag

A well-made flag, recently donated by Mrs. A. R. Dunning, is waving from its stand on the Woman's Club lawn each Tuesday and Friday, beckoning to idle hands to call for material and boost the output of the production unit of the Martin County Red Cross Chapter.

While the progress report of the unit is encouraging, the chairman frankly states that it is not what it should be. Comparatively few items have been made, but approximately 25 willing workers are holding close to their knitting and sewing, thoroughly convinced that their efforts will bring relief to some unfortunate soul somewhere in the troubled or war-stricken countries, maybe in England, maybe in embattled Russia or on some mountain side in the Balkans, or in some other distant part of the world.

Forced to caves, Chinese women and children are using obsolete looms to make cloth for their soldiers. Here in America it is apparently difficult to get volunteers to sew the ready-made cloth together. Why doesn't the factory turn it out? The present factory output will not supply the needs, and care for home consumption, too. Reports state that should war engulf this country there would not be enough first-aid material to supply the army.

Three sewing machines are now ready for use in the club rooms, and volunteers may use them or take the work home with them. Mrs. Dunning is urging a greater support for the project.

## Eastern Boy Scout Council Will Meet

Members of the executive board of the Eastern Carolina Boy Scout Council will meet in the Woman's Club hall here this evening at seven o'clock. General reports, covering the activities of the organization during the past quarter, will be read before the meeting. Wheeler Martin, chairman of the Martin County district, said this morning.

Representatives are expected here from Wilson, Greenville, Washington, Rocky Mount, Tarboro, Roanoke Rapids, Windsor and Plymouth.

Plans will be mapped at the meeting tonight for a Scout drive in this district, Mr. Martin said. In a letter addressed to local people this week, Campaign Chairman Wheeler Martin and R. H. Goodmon explained that a strong support was anticipated for the youth of the section.

## Evangelistic Services Being Held In Methodist Church

Evangelistic services are being held each night this week at the local Methodist Church. Rev. J. G. Phillips, of Bethel, is doing the preaching. The services begin at 7:45 o'clock. The public is cordially invited to attend.

## Farm Bureau In County Signs Nearly 800 Members To Date

Reporting nearly 800 members signed, twenty-two of the 36 membership canvassers in a progress meeting held in the agricultural building last Friday evening made plans to round out the drive at or above 1,000 members and bring the drive to a close on Friday of next week.

A new membership record has already been established, but the membership group felt certain that the goal of 1,000 members could be reached and passed by October 24th. The campaign has, with very few exceptions, received strong support, especially among business men over the county, and more farmers are taking a greater interest in the organization than ever before. The membership campaign is headed by six captains, and the three teams signing the smallest number of members will feed the winners at a turkey supper in the Legion Hut on October 24th. The membership committees have canvassed the county at their own expense and without reward. The membership did agree to help finance a trip for the four campaigners who signed the most members. Officers of the organization as well as the membership canvassers receive no salary or remuneration whatever. "We received aid from the Farm Bureau as a group through favorable legislation and other means," Member Sam T. Everett declared at the meeting last Friday, "and we don't expect direct remuneration," he added.

## Peel Takes Office Of County Tax Collector

### COLLECTOR



M. Luther Peel, Williamston man, entered upon his new duties as full-time tax collector for Martin County last Saturday. He is the first to fill the appointive office.

## Miss House Reviews Library Activities in County And State

### Forty-five Counties Receiving Aid in State-wide Library System

During the recent North Carolina Library Convention held in Greensboro many interesting bits of information were discussed concerning the library needs and how the State is attempting to meet those needs. Miss Elizabeth House, librarian for the B-H-M Regional Library Association, attended the three days of the convention. Miss House reported that she was made to feel quite good to see Martin County appearing in solid green on the big map of the State. Those counties appropriating \$1,000 or more were put in green.

At present there are 45 counties receiving aid in the State-wide library system.

## Three Selectees Rejected By Army

Three of the fifteen selectees, reporting at Fort Bragg for possible military service from this county last Wednesday, were rejected, the draft board was notified here yesterday.

Robert Asa Edmondson, Jr., of Hamilton; Robert Thomas Pritchett, of Dardens, and Cyril Harrison Renspass, of Robersonville R. F. D. No. 1, have returned home. Physical defects, including flat feet, were given as the causes for their rejection.

Indirect reports received here stated that the dozen young men who accepted are getting along all right, that several of them are likely to be transferred to Louisiana and Texas within a short time.

### GINNINGS

While the 1941 cotton crop in this county will fall under the 1940 production of 5,900 bales, it is quite evident that the farmers are preparing the staple for market faster this year than they did last season.

According to a release by Special Agent Vernon Griffin for the Bureau of the Census, 1,440 bales of cotton have been ginned from the current crop as compared with 1,050 bales ginned up to October 1, a year ago.

key supper in the Legion Hut on October 24th. The membership committees have canvassed the county at their own expense and without reward. The membership did agree to help finance a trip for the four campaigners who signed the most members. Officers of the organization as well as the membership canvassers receive no salary or remuneration whatever. "We received aid from the Farm Bureau as a group through favorable legislation and other means," Member Sam T. Everett declared at the meeting last Friday, "and we don't expect direct remuneration," he added.

If the county can sign 1,000 members arrangements will be made to get Edward O'Neal, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, to address a meeting of the Martin County unit at a big barbecue to be held either the latter part of this year or the early part of next.

## Commissioners Hold Special Meeting On Saturday Afternoon

### Full-Time Collector To Take Over 1940 Books After Sheriff's Settlement

M. Luther Peel, appointed full-time tax collector for Martin County by the board of commissioners in session on October 6th, entered upon his new duties last Saturday afternoon when he subscribed to the oath of the newly created office before Clerk of Court L. Bruce Wynne.

Meeting in special session, the commissioners approved the collector's \$25,000 cash bond with a surety company and accepted settlement of J. Sam Getsinger's tax account for the year of 1941. The changes, handled in strict accordance with a special legislative act passed in 1937, were checked by auditors of the Greathouse and Butler auditing firm. Commissioners R. L. Perry, chairman; C. A. Roberson, R. A. Haislip and Joshua L. Coltrin were present for the special business session, but the proceedings were handled without public fanfare. No other business was brought before the board, but plans were made for locating the full-time collector in the small office diagonally across the hall from the sheriff's headquarters. Miss Mildred Hedrick, for several years employed in the sheriff's office, has been named assistant to Mr. Peel.

Taking over the 1941 books immediately after qualifying for office, Mr. Peel made ready to receive the first collections temporarily in the commissioners' room. He will move into his permanent quarters just as soon as it can be renovated and the fixtures arranged.

At the meeting Saturday, Mr. Peel was instructed to take the 1941 books immediately and be prepared to take over the 1940 accounts just as soon as the sheriff makes settlement after the land sales are held on Monday, November 3rd. Uncollected accounts for prior years will remain in the hands of Special Collector S. Harcum Grimes until they are liquidated in one way or another. Just as soon as the sheriff holds his land sales for the 1940 tax year and the accounts for previous years are liquidated by Special Collector Grimes, the tax collection system will be handled by one office.

Taking over the 1941 books last Saturday, Collector Peel had a splendid start for a record, Special Collector J. Sam Getsinger reporting \$80,844.20 of the 1941 levy of \$205,459.84 already collected. The 1941 levy compares with \$204,466.56 levied a year ago.

According to arrangements effected by the commissioners last Saturday, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck will continue to collect all privilege license taxes, such as wine, beer, slot machine, filling station and so on.

Given consideration by the commissioners for some time and especially during recent months when a special drive brought in thousands of dollars in back taxes, the office of full-time tax collector carries a salary of \$3,000 annually, the collector to furnish his travel out of that amount. An allowance not to exceed \$900 per year was granted for clerical help. The appointment is for one year, the resolution creating the office proving for appointment of a collector each year thirty days before the first Monday in October.

After taking over the books, Mr. Peel reported \$600 in collections Saturday afternoon.

## Father Of Local Man Dies In Clarksville On Friday

The father of Mr. W. C. Russell, local tobacco warehouse employee, died at his home in Clarksville, Va., last Friday. Funeral services were conducted there Saturday. Besides his son here he is survived by Mrs. Russell and a brother.

## This Week In Defense

### Neutrality Law Modification Asked

Stating "we will not let Hitler prescribe the waters of the world on which our ships may travel..." the President asked Congress to repeal Section 6 of the Neutrality Act which prohibits arming of American merchant ships and to examine other phases of the law. The President said this action "is a matter of immediate necessity and extreme urgency."

The President said conditions have so changed since enactment of the law, it is no longer truly a neutrality measure. He said "it is time for this country to stop playing into Hitler's hands and to unshackle our own." He said the U. S. should not "be forced to masquerade American-owned ships behind the flags of our sister Republics."

"Most of the vital goods authorized by the Congress are being delivered," Mr. Roosevelt said, "yet many of them are being sunk; and as we approach full production requiring the use of more shops now being built it will be increasingly necessary to deliver American goods under the American flag."

**Aid to Britain and Russia**  
The American Red Cross instructed the British Red Cross to forward immediately to Russia 800 tons of medical supplies. The American Red Cross will send replacement supplies to England.

### Prices

Retail food prices continued to rise between mid-August and mid-September, increasing 2.6 per cent to reach the highest level since January, 1931, the Labor Department reported. Consumer Commissioner Elliott reported food prices have risen 29 per cent since the war began as compared to 18.4 per cent in the comparable World War period and farm products have risen 43.1 per cent as contrasted to 12.6 per cent during the last war.

Price Administrator Henderson, speaking in support of the pending price regulating legislation, said "even more frightening than the present level of price advances is the fact that these advances have been gathering momentum since the early months of the year." He said the cost of living last August was 7 1/2 per cent higher than two years ago. Since March alone, he said, the cost of living is up 5 per cent.

### Priorities

The Supply Priorities and Allocation Board ruled that no new public or private construction can be started unless it is essential for defense or the health and safety of the people or does not involve use of strategic materials. The ruling applies to Federal, State and local government buildings, roads and highways, river and harbor improvements, residential building and all commercial building. Efforts will be made, however, to aid completion of construction already substantially finished.

### Physical Rehabilitation for Selectees

The President announced plans to "salvage" 200,000 of the 1,000,000 selective service registrants who have been rejected for health reasons. He also announced he would initiate a long-range program of Federal, State

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## Officers Raiding On Bootleg Avenue

ABC Officer J. H. Roebuck, members of the local police force and Sheriff C. B. Roebuck struck at the heart of the illicit liquor retail center in the county last Sunday evening when they raided on "Bootleg Avenue," near the railroad freight station.

Eleven pints of white lightning were found hidden in a trap door over a window by the officers after they had made a long search of the home. James Powell, colored, was detained, but when he asked permission to go out of doors, he left one of the officers holding a part of his shirt. Traveling light and without shoes, Powell left a trail of dust as he moved up Railroad Street, warning shots from the officer's gun only causing him to increase his speed. Powell later sent for his shoes and evaded a trap by the officers. He has not been heard from since that time.

### PARENTS-TEACHERS

Parents and teachers of the Williamston school community will hold their second meeting of the school term tomorrow afternoon at 3:30 in the high school auditorium. Films furnished by the Rocky Mount office of the Social Security Board will be shown the group after association business matters are discussed.

Two association committees met yesterday to formulate definite plans for the year's activities. The program committee completed a preliminary draft of the remaining programs, and the executive committee worked on details connected with the assistance to be rendered the elementary library, the first aid rooms, and other association projects.

## Accidents Claim Two Lives In The County

### Virgil L. Priest Is Killed Instantly in Wreck Last Sunday

### Colored Man Run Down and Killed in Upper Part of County Sunday

Two persons were killed and several others were slightly injured in a series of automobile accidents on the highways of this county Sunday, the grim reaper pushing his death toll on the county highways to five for the year. The bloody record equals the complete report for 1940.

Virgil Loomis Priest, popular tobaccoist on the local market and a young Christian gentleman who had made many friends during his short stay here, was instantly killed at 1:45 o'clock Sunday morning when his car, a 1941 Plymouth sedan, plowed into a truck on a curve in U. S. Highway 17 one and one-half miles south of here. His neck and arms broken and injured by a piece of board that drove his neck the several inches into his body, the young man never knew what happened. One of his arms was partly torn off, and the chest wound could hardly be filled with one's fist. Found lying in the back seat of the car where it was knocked by the impact, the body was removed to the Biggs Funeral Home where it was prepared and later shipped to Scottsburg, Va., the young man's home, for burial today.

Apparently driving at a rapid speed, Priest could hardly hold his car on the right side of the road and plowed into the truck driven by Lester Bailey, 29-year-old Bear Grass farmer, tearing away the front running gear, ripping off the left headlight and peeling fender and the iron frame back as he went. The car then struck the protruding oak body, a piece of which ripped through the car and caught the young man in the chest. The car, skidding sideways, came to a stop 100 feet down the highway without turning over. The truck turned over on the shoulder, but Bailey and his companion, Murphy Whitaker, were injured only slightly. They were badly shocked, but continued to their homes after receiving medical attention.

Driving two cars, Priest and Tom Swain, Jr., had visited in Washington that night, and the tobaccoist was trailing Swain home. The driver of the front car stated he was driving between 60 and 65 miles an hour, that he passed the truck just before entering the sharp curve, and turned around when he did not see the lights of Priest's car follow him around the curve. The victim may have had a drink, but young Swain declared he was not under the influence of liquor. No evidence of liquor was found on the truck driver, Patrolman W. E. Saunders said after investigating the accident.

Bailey could not be reached immediately for a direct statement, but according to the report given Patrolman Saunders he saw the lights of the Priest car just a second before the crash, Bailey adding that the next thing he knew his truck was turning over. Bailey, badly shocked, was greatly upset over the accident.

Employed by the Export Leaf Tobacco Company, Mr. Priest came to the market here for the first time this year. He readily made friends and was popular among a wide circle of friends and among his business associates. His father was killed in an automobile accident, and according to one report the young man was the seventh in the Priest family to have lost his life in a highway wreck. Mr. Priest, formerly associated with the British-American Tobacco Company returned to this country last March after a stay of four years in China and Manchuria. Prior to that time he served in the Marines with honor.

His mother, Mrs. F. C. Harris, his stepfather and a brother, of Scottsburg, came here Sunday afternoon for the body. Officials of the Export Company in this section of the State were here investigating the accident, and other friends from nearby markets visited here during the day.

Zenius Sneed, Jr., 19-year-old colored man, was run down and instantly killed on N. C. Highway 11, about one mile north of the Pitt County boundary line Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock. John R. Bryant, former Martin County man who had come down from his home, 110 S.

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## Father Of Local Man Dies Suddenly Sunday

Mr. John Diem, father of Artie Diem, of Williamston, died suddenly at his home in Swea City, Iowa, late Sunday night. A short time before receiving the death message, Mr. Diem had a letter from a brother stating that all were well. The letter was mailed only last Friday. Funeral arrangements could not be learned immediately.

Mr. Diem was 76 years old, and leaves besides his son here, two sons and a daughter.

### MARKET

While no closing date has been mentioned, the end of the tobacco marketing season is not far away, according to a report coming from the markets today. Sales were unusually light, following a large sale yesterday. It is possible that the marketing season will last until the latter part of the month, but some markets are planning to close prior to that time, it is understood.

Yesterday, the local market sold approximately 200,000 pounds for an average right at 37 cents. Hardly 35,000 pounds are on the floors today, but prices continue to hold firm. Much inferior tobacco is being offered, the farmers explaining that they are tying up what is usually handled as scrap and offering it for sale at auction.

A state report, released this week, shows the local market up to October 1, sold 4,714,988 pounds for an average of \$28.96 or seven cents a hundred pounds higher than the average for the belt.

## Last Rites Friday Near Oak City For Mrs. Susan Rawls

### Respected Citizen of County Dies Following Long Illness of the Heart

Mrs. Susan Amanda Rawls, beloved and life-long resident of Martin County, died at her home near Oak City Wednesday night after an illness of several months' duration. She had been in declining health due to a heart ailment since last March but was able to be up and slightly active until the first week in August when she suffered another heart attack. From the latter she rallied to some extent and hope was held for her recovery. But about three weeks ago she was taken worse and gradually became weaker until her passing, which was peaceful and easy at the end. Mrs. Rawls was a home-loving person and a faithful member of the Primitive Baptist Church, having united with that church about 25 years ago.

She was born in this county 69 years ago last June, the eldest daughter of W. B. Savage and Esther Brown Savage. In early womanhood, she was married to J. Robert Rawls, who preceded her to the grave exactly 27 years ago this month.

Surviving this union are the following 11 children—five sons, James and Julian, of Oak City; Paul, of Newport News; Ruper and Hilton, of the home; six daughters, Miss Jennie Rawls, of the home; Mrs. H. C. Dwyer, of Roanoke Rapids; Mrs. B. H. Boulden, of Garysburg; Mrs. E. L. Bunting and Mrs. B. H. Highsmith, of Newport News; and Mrs. H. W. High of Oak City; two sisters, Mrs. S. T. Womack, Scotland Neck, and Mrs. R. B. King, Roanoke Rapids, and 26 grandchildren also survive.

Funeral services were held from the home Friday afternoon at three o'clock by Elder B. S. Cowan and her pastor, Elder W. E. Grimes. During the services the choir sang her favorite hymns, "How Firm a Foundation," and "Come Thy Fount." Mrs. Harold Lupton sang "Death Is No More Than a Dream." Interment was in the community cemetery, with the following pallbearers: J. C. Ross, R. A. Haislip, W. G. Keel, S. W. Casper, L. E. Keeter and R. E. Turner. The casket was covered with a double spray of white asters, Easter lilies and fern. Many beautiful floral offerings were in evidence.

## Young Woman Is Very Ill In Hospital

Mrs. Jennie Downing Harrell, young Oak City woman and a bride of only a few months, was reported last night seriously ill in a Tarboro hospital from poisoning. Said to have taken three bichloride of mercury tablets last Friday morning in Oak City, Mrs. Harrell was rushed to the hospital a short time later.

Her condition became much worse Sunday, and last reports received here indicated that she continued dangerously ill.

### FOOD, WAR AND PEACE

If every farmer will grow his own food and feed in 1942, he will not have to buy as much, and more will be available to strengthen America's defense forces, and the Armies of our friends across the sea.

Prepare to do your part in the "Food for Freedom" campaign. Ask your county agent how you can help, and be ready to pledge your support when your AAA committeeman comes to call.

## Russians Say Nazis Are Slowed Down In Drive On Moscow

### Britain and America Declare Aid Now Moving to Russians in Brave Stand

The bloody drive on Moscow, supported by an estimated three million German soldiers and the greatest array of mechanized equipment in all history, has been slowed down, Russian reports claimed early today. A dangerous situation still confronts the Soviet capital, however, it was admitted, and unless British and American aid reaches there quickly little hope is held for checking the invaders. That the invaders were continuing their march toward Moscow was revealed when the Russian command announced yesterday that Red forces had withdrawn from Vyazma, key rail junction 125 miles west of the capital, and from Bryansk, another important defense center 210 miles southwest of Moscow, after bitter fighting in which the Germans experienced terrific losses in both manpower and equipment.

Fighting of massive proportions still is raging along the whole front, today's official announcement said, with especially bitter conflict continuing in the Vyazma and Bryansk areas.

In far-ranging aerial warfare, the Russians reported the destruction of 122 German planes Saturday against 27 Soviet losses. Of the German losses, 106 planes were declared destroyed on airbases behind the lines and 16 in air combat.

Seven German craft were downed yesterday at the approaches to Moscow.

The government newspaper Pravda, reporting a stiffening defense against the Nazi onset, said the Moscow front appeared to be stabilizing, although the Germans, too, were pouring in reinforcements to retain their advantage in numbers.

In two key sectors Red Army counter attacks were said to have hurled the Germans back. Pravda said one town near German-captured Bryansk had been won back by the Russians, and the Soviet Bureau of Information reported gains from counterattacks north of Orel, 220 miles south of Moscow.

"Despite great losses," Pravda said, "our troops are fighting steadfastly."

The big push in the Vyazma sector, where the main German effort has been concentrated, also appeared to have lost its momentum.

Although it was acknowledged that the danger remained grave, allied military headquarters said they were "breathing more easily" and that the Germans apparently were lagging behind schedule in their 12-day offensive.

Pravda, today's only newspaper, again in its leading editorial called for a concentration of "all our force to repel the enemy" and declared "victory will be ours."

Pravda described the fresh Russian reinforcements at the approaches to Moscow as battle-seasoned veterans returning to the fighting lines rested and well-equipped. Their equipment was said to include warm winter uniforms, long grey overcoats and fur hats as protection from the snow and cold already setting in along the front.

Moscow had an air raid alarm before dawn—its first since October 2. No bombs were known to have been dropped within the city.

German claims reached the fantastic in late reports today. One report claimed that the Germans had taken over three million Russian prisoners in their drive into the Soviet, and declared that their forces were nearing the important Leningrad-Moscow railroad.

Later Russian reports declared (Continued on page four)

## Employment Office Has Job Openings

The Williamston Employment office has a considerable number of job openings at present. Some of the openings are for local employers or those in adjoining counties. Others are for locations here and there over the State.

Among the job openings at present are those for general office clerks, millwrights, hotel and restaurant cooks, stockroom clerks, stenographers, male and female, printers, machinists, sheet metal workers, combination welders, rodmen, vocational training teachers, farm hands, construction workers, etc.

There is also a continual shortage of cooks, house workers and domestic help generally. These openings are in Williamston, Washington and from time to time at other points nearby. Applicants should register or renew their applications at the local office or at Washington, Behavens, Plymouth, Columbia and Swan Quarter on regular days when a representative visits these places.

## Skewarkey Masons Will Hold Meeting Tonight

Skewarkey Lodge Masons will hold a regular meeting in the lodge hall this evening at 8 o'clock. Benjamin Courtney, officer in the lodge, announced yesterday.