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ESTABLISHED 1899

Spivey Completing Plans For Urgent Red Cross Canvass

Thirty-five Canvassers Will Start Whirlwind Drive Thursday Morning

Appointed chairman to raise \$2,000 for Emergency Red Cross Relief at a meeting of representative citizens in the courthouse yesterday afternoon at 5 o'clock, V. J. Spivey a few hours later had formulated tentative plans for a whirlwind campaign to get underway on Thursday morning. Canvassers were named for Williamston Township by the chairman last night and they are to meet in the courthouse auditorium tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock for definite instructions. During the meantime, organization plans are going forward in the other four townships embracing the Martin County chapter of the Red Cross.

Pledging his best efforts in handling the vitally necessary work, Mr. Spivey is appealing to each of the thirty-five canvassers to be at the special meeting in the courthouse tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock when definite plans will be advanced for conducting the drive.

Let it be remembered that Mr. Spivey and the canvassers he has named are not receiving one penny for their work, and they are not begging. In the words of the Chief Executive, one does not make a sacrifice in contributing to any cause designed for the defeat of Hitler; it is a privilege. Our people are urged to support the movement, giving not in comparison with what neighbor Jones or Mr. Smith gives but to the fullest extent of one individual ability. The record of the campaign will be read by Martin County boys in the armed service in a dozen more states in the Union, in Panama, in Hawaii, and in the Philippines.

At the suggestion of the chairman of the emergency drive, the names of every contributor and the amount contributed will be published. The whole committee first limited public recognition to those contributing \$1 or more. "The widow's mite shall be recognized," Mr. Spivey declared. Special Red Cross emblems will be displayed on the coats of those who do more than talk, talk, and talk in the present serious crisis.

Mapping out his tentative plans for the drive, Mr. Spivey named 35 canvassers and asks any and all others who will aid the urgent movement to volunteer their services. The names of the canvassers who will be assigned definite territories are: Mrs. John Gurkin, Fred Taylor, Hewitt Edwards, Maylon Price, John Bland, Dennis Hardy, Grover Nicholson, Mrs. Claude Jenkins, David Moore, Mrs. Eva Avant, Miss Edna Barnhill, C. B. Roebuck, Mrs. E. T. Walker, Mrs. J. A. Eason, Mrs. Elbert S. Peel, Mrs. Wheeler Martin, Rev. John Hardy, Herman A. Bowen, D. V. Clayton, Miss Mary Carstarphen, George Harrison, Jr., Mrs. Frank Weston, Mrs. A. J. Manning, Jr., Mrs. Ruth Bondurant, Mrs. J. W. Watts, Mrs. E. P. Cunningham, Mrs. Edwin Holding, J. E. King, D. N. Hix, Mrs. I. M. Margolis, Mrs. Francis Barnes, Mrs. J. C. Manning, Mrs. J. S. Rhodes, Mrs. R. H. Goodman, Leman Barnhill and Edward Corey.

County Young Man Gets His "Wings"

Raleigh T. Harrington, young son of Parson and Mrs. W. B. Harrington, of the Farm Life community, this county, was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army Air Corps last Friday at Turley Field, Albany, Ga. He was in the class of SE-41-I with Colonel John B. Patrick in charge.

The young man entered the service only last April, but since that time he has been subjected to intensive training. He had hardly reached home when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor a week ago last Sunday and by midnight he had received a message ordering him to return to his station immediately.

Lieutenant Harrington is now in line for actual combat service or it is possible he may be detained at Turner Field as an instructor.

Close Red Cross Production Unit

The local production center of the American Red Cross will close today until Tuesday, December 30th, Mrs. A. R. Dunning, chairman, announced this morning. The chairman explained that there is very little to be done in the production room at the present time since most of the material has been made into garments. Those who have aided in the work will also be busy preparing for the Christmas season.

Quite a few garments have not been turned into the center and the shipment scheduled this week could not be effected, Mrs. Dunning asking that all the articles be made ready for shipment on or immediately after December 30th.

Fix Schedule Of Tax Values In The County

REQUEST

Since the War and Navy Departments are not making public casualty lists, this paper humbly asks those persons in this county having relatives in the service to keep it in touch with the young men, and report such information that might come into their hands and which can be released without comfort to the enemy. No dispatches or official reports have been received so far in this county pertaining to Martin County men in the Pacific service.

Red Cross Raises \$570.00 Of Its First Quota In Chapter

New Drive On Second Quota of \$2,000 Will Follow in Chapter At Once

Renewed efforts over the weekend by canvassers supported by voluntary contributions boosted the Red Cross membership total in the Martin County chapter to \$570.50, or a little more than half of the initial quota assigned more than a month ago.

The Bear Grass total was boosted to \$35 by a \$10 contribution made by Elder B. S. Cowan. Mrs. J. F. Jordan, of Dardens, reports memberships and contributions there amounting to \$17.63. The Pine Grove Baptist Church raised \$17, the pastor, Rev. W. B. Harrington, turning over that amount to the chapter treasurer yesterday. To date, a total of \$464.87 has been raised in the town of Williamston, \$35 in Bear Grass, \$36 in Jamesville, and \$17.63 in Dardens, making a grand total of \$570.50.

Memberships and contributions not previously reported are as follows:

Mrs. Herman Bowen, Rev. Z. T. Piephoff, Mrs. Jack Booker, Miss Betsy Koonce and Herman Bowen. Mrs. David Modlin, Mrs. Virginia R. Cutchin, Mrs. Mayo Modlin, Mrs. H. H. Taylor and Mrs. Ed Woolard, Mesdames Sylvia Green, Henry Harrison, Ernest Etheridge, S. W. Manning, J. O. Manning, H. L. Barnhill, Kate York, Bill Peel, J. C. Cook, Daisy Purvis and Mrs. C. A. James; Milton James and Mr. Charles James. Chas. H. Jenkins and Co., James Bailey Peel, George Harris, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Bill White, Mrs. Bob Carver, Frank Weston and Mr. and Mrs. Mack Roberson.

Enrolling as members the following children contributed \$1.00 to the Roll Call canvass: David Davis, Jr., Betsy Hunter Davis, Robert Weston, Clayton Weston and Joyce Baker. Those making contributions from 10 cents to 40 cents are as follows: Eddie Daniels, Bobby Manning, Danny Manning, Janice Hardison, Sandra Harrison, Eddie Bufflap, Brother Sessoms and Billy Sessoms.

Reports from Dardens, Mrs. J. F. Jordan enrolled the following members last week: C. B. Fagan, J. L. Knowles, J. F. Jordan, Dan Fagan, Julian Fagan, M. S. Fagan, Bert L. Roberson, Bill Harden, Bob Harden, H. E. Daniels, H. L. Riddick, J. P. Bland, Bob Davenport, J. A. Stalls, Oscar Davenport and Ralph Davenport. Individuals contributing from 10 cents to 25 cents are: Allen Griffin, G. C. Lilley, Melvin Stalls, E. M. Bland, John Swinson, Stephen Davis, Ed Moore, Bob Dail, Warren Hinson, Fred Woolard, S. Johnson, L. S. Williams, Ray Daniel, J. H. Fagan, Herbert Williams, Eddie Boston, Elmer Mizell and Jimmy Knowles.

Elder B. S. Cowan, \$10.00; Piney Grove Baptist Church, \$17.00. No comment was heard as the annual membership roll call was brought to a close, but numbers of local citizens expressed the hope that in making the new drive sufficient amounts could be raised to offset the deficit.

DECORATIONS

Following the lighting of the streets in the main business districts, the municipal water department has made ready its holiday decorations atop the tower, the vari-colored lights shedding a cheery feeling despite the trouble-filled world.

Approximately \$50 in prizes are being offered for the best door-way, yard, store window and municipal decorations, but up until the present time few decorations have been made ready. This week will see the lights going up in nearly 100 homes and yards here. Apparently the courthouse and town hall gangs are waiting for the order to make a move.

Farm Crops Grown In 1941 Will Not Be Taxed In 1942

Definite Instructions Call for Accurate and Complete Listing Next Month

Meeting in the commissioners' room here yesterday, the ten township list-takers officially fixed a schedule of values for all personal properties and received definite instructions from County Tax Supervisor C. D. Carstarphen calling for an accurate and complete list as of January 1st. The listing work will hardly get underway before January 5th, but the values will be fixed for those things in the possession of the taxpayer on January 1st, meaning that if you own a home on January 1st and it burns down on January 2nd it is to be listed. If one buys an automobile or any other item on January 2nd he does not have to list it for taxation in 1942.

The 1942 tax program calls for quite a few changes including a strict adherence to the laws and an accurate and as near as possible a fair listing by every individual. The 1943 program does not call for any change in real estate values. These values are to remain the same as they were for 1941 except in those cases where the values have been altered by fire or other action or where improvements to the property have been made. For the first time possibly in tax history, the farmer will not be required to list any farm crops such as cotton, corn, peanuts, hay, sweet and Irish potatoes or any other item grown in the ground. The exemption is applicable however to only those crops grown in 1941. If a farmer has carried over cotton, peanuts or other crops from 1940 he is supposed to list them, but not those grown in 1941. The purpose of the exemption is to keep the farmer from rushing his farm crops to market to escape taxation. However, this year most all crops have been sold except the corn and sweet potato crops. Meat, lard, poultry and similar items along with other personal property will be taxable according to the schedule of values fixed by the list-takers and supervisor at their meeting.

Opening the meeting, Supervisor Carstarphen instructed the list-takers to get correct names and addresses, placing nicknames in parenthesis, and listing the name of employer and the wife's given name where the property owner is married. Pointing out that much confusion has followed an apparent lax system of listing dogs, the tax supervisor called for an accurate list. "There are some dog owners facing the court now because they did not for one reason or another list the canines for taxation," the supervisor said. Automobile values will be determined by the little "blue-book," the supervisor instructing the list-takers to determine in whose names the cars are registered. It is fairly certain that the automobile registrations will be checked to determine if all cars in the county are listed for taxation. When it comes to other personal property, the list-takers were instructed to enumerate all items subject to taxation. "We do not want to get anything on the books that does not belong there, but it is no more" (Continued on page four)

Verbal Attack On President Is Heard

Little realizing the seriousness of her words, a local young woman was said to have been heard in delivering a verbal attack against the President of the United States here yesterday. The attack was reported to local police, but no action has been taken in the case. The remarks, bordering close to treason in the eyes of some, caused bitter resentment in some quarters and it was reliably learned that the police had been urged to take some action in the case. The verbal attack is a bit similar to a case out in Chicago where a young man boomed a newsreel showing President Roosevelt. Other show patrons tore the man's clothes from him and administered a sound thrashing before he could be rescued. Carried into court, the man was fined \$200. The defendant, after the trial, declared that he was a good American, that he was a welder and wanted to get into the Army. He was rejected on account of his eyes. He explained that he did not have time to read the papers and did not know how people feel about politics now. "I am a Republican and when Roosevelt's picture was flashed on the screen, I naturally boomed," the man explained. But the fine was not lifted.

Added Importance Is Given To The Battle Of Russia

Wake Island Defenders Call For More Japs Early This Morning

While the United States forces are holding their own in the Pacific, added importance is being attached to the battle in Russia. The outcome of the fight there and Russia's future policy are recognized as the determining factors. If Russia continues its route of the German forces and it is doing a mighty good job at the present, and then carries the fight to German soil there is good cause to entertain encouraging hope for the future. Even if Germany stiffens its opposition and holds Russia in abeyance, there is still hope, but it is highly probable that the cost will be great and the struggle long. Today, the Russian forces are spreading into the Crimea, and Red Army leaders declare they will whip Hitler on his own soil. The declaration, pleasing to the Allies, must have had its effect for a report today stated that Hitler's health is failing and that he had gone to his retreat in the mountains to rest. The strain on the murderer has been too great, his doctor says.

News from the war fronts today told of no marked change in the Pacific other than in Malaya, and at Hong Kong with the threats against the Dutch East Indies and the Burma Road becoming more serious. United States and Filipino forces are holding firm against Japan and there is no change on the island of Luzon. Army bombers were said to have badly damaged a Jap transport today, increasing the Japanese losses to serious proportions. The Japs are advancing in northern Malaya and the danger to Singapore is becoming more serious. Japs have been directed against Borneo. In Libya the British are closing in on the Germans. Six Nazi divisions are now surrounded and the British are within 35 miles of the strong Axis base of Derna.

Steps are being taken today to coordinate the allied effort. Plans are being formulated in Washington, London and Moscow. Free forces of Czechoslovakia today declared war on all nations fighting the Allies. Establishing a belated contact with little Wake Island this morning, Honolulu asked what the defenders would be sent them. "Send us some more Japs," was the reply from those who have thrown back numbers of invasion attempts. A late report stated that a heavy blow had been dealt the German Gestapo by blowing up its main headquarters and killing a number of the leaders.

Christmas Pageant Presented Sunday

Approximately 180 members of the Williamston High School and Grammar School vested glee clubs impressively presented a Christmas pageant, "The Nativity," to a capacity audience Sunday evening in the high school auditorium. This was the first performance of the pageant the first having been presented for the students of the local schools on Friday morning.

This was the first public appearance of the grammar school glee club which has been organized only two months. The group includes 90 children from the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh grades.

The cast supported by members of the choruses included: Jack Mobley, Crucifer; Evelyn Griffin, Reader; Mary Trulsh Peel, Mary; Conrad Getsinger, Joseph; Benny Weaver, Al Ward and Parker Peel, Shepherds; Louise Corey, Harriet Ward, Sara Manning, Betty Sue Gurganus, Betty Horton and Harriet Peel, village children; Lenora Melson, Mildred Thomas, Julia Clyde Waters, Frances Jarman, Anne Woolard and Luella Peel, Angels; Julian Mason, Eugene Andrews and Joseph Manning, Kings; Alberta Swain, Lenora Melson, Hewitt Andrews and Billy Peel, mixed quartet; Mary O'Neal Pope, soprano soloist; and Anne Lindsley, Alberta Swain, Courtney Jenkins and Louise Griffin, instrumental quartet.

Miss Kathryn Mewborn, director, was assisted by the following: accompanists, Miss Grace Talton and Miss Katherine Bradley, pianists, and Irvin Gurganus, violinist; stage, Mrs. C. B. Hassell, Miss Virginia Reynolds, Mr. Robert Collard and Mr. D. N. Hix; lighting effects, Miss Doris Leach and Collin Peel; programs, Miss Mary Whitley; costumes, Miss Mary Benson and Miss Madge Glazener; publicity, Mrs. Sam Edwards, and instrumental quartet, Mr. Jack Butler.

Farm Bureau Will Hold Meeting Here Friday Night

Members of the Martin County Farm Bureau will meet in the agricultural building here Friday evening at 7:30 o'clock when the delegates to the national convention in Chicago will address the membership.

Navy Secretary Reports Heavy Loss Of Life And Destruction Of Six Ships In Pearl Harbor

Martin County Leads State in Support of Cotton Referendum

Martin County is fast becoming recognized as the stronghold of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration program. After giving the cotton program one of the strongest votes in 1940, cotton farmers last Saturday led the entire State in support of the program for 1942. Only three votes-out of a total of 1,092 were cast against marketing quotas for next year, giving the program 99.72 per cent support. The vote was even larger than it was last year and far greater than was expected. Grasping the uncertain future for cotton along with the whole county, Martin County farmers braved a cold rain to visit their respective polling places to cast their votes in support of the program for next year.

Table with columns: For, Against, Total. Lists votes for Jamesville, Williams, Bear Grass, Williamston, Cross Roads, Robersonville, Gold Point, Hamilton, Hassell, Goose Nest, and a total of 1099.

Martin County Men Apparently Escape In Surprise Attack

Knox Admits Defenders Are Caught Napping and Promises Thorough Inquiry

After a frank fashion following a personal visit to the scene, Navy Secretary Frank Knox yesterday officially reported the astounding facts growing out of the sneaking attack by the yellow Japs on Pearl Harbor.

"Austin Randolph Jackson, Seaman First Class, U. S. Navy, was lost in action in the service of his country," the Navy Department with regret advised his mother, Mrs. Ora Jackson Burnett, in Jamesville this afternoon. No details of the young man's death were offered. In accordance with a previous announcement, the young man's body was buried near the place where he sacrificed his life for his country, but will be removed to this country later. It could not be learned immediately when the young man volunteered his services. He is the first Martin County man to surrender his life in the present struggle.

on the morning of December 7th. Accompanying the report of the tragedy which was high-lighted by "fifth column" treachery, laxity, death and destruction were stories telling of courageous acts and heroism.

When their ship, the Oklahoma, capsized, sailors plunged into the water and swam to board destroyers instead of seeking safety on the docks. So surprised were the men at their stations that they thought the attack was only a maneuver until the bombs blew up the battleship Arizona, the 32,600-ton battleship built in 1916. Assuring the American people that the bulk of the Pacific fleet was not damaged, the Navy Secretary brought back hair-raising stories of bravery of American soldiers and sailors who fought through flame and shellfire, of a dying battleship (Continued on page four)

All-Out Canvass For Red Cross War Fund

This Chapter Asked To Raise \$2,000.00 For New Emergency

Quotas Broken Down Among The Five Townships in The Chapter

Failing miserably in meeting its first obligation centering around the annual membership roll call, the Martin County Chapter of the American Red Cross has been given a new assignment. The chapter, embracing Jamesville, Williams, Griffins, Bear Grass and Williamston Townships, has been asked to raise \$2,000 as its part of a \$50,000,000 war emergency relief fund. North Carolina has been asked to raise \$750,500. The drive is separate and entirely apart from the annual membership roll call which has just been brought to a shameful close in this chapter. Preliminary plans for meeting the challenge in this chapter were advanced at a meeting of representative citizens from the district in the county commissioners' room here yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock. V. J. Spivey, well-known local man, was named chairman of the emergency drive, and he is expected to set-up his organization immediately and call for a whirlwind drive by the latter part of the week. Organizations are being perfected in at least two townships tonight when the parents and teachers meet. Willing workers are ready to start the drive in Williamston. Mary Gray and Cleo Tyner will carry the urgent appeal to the colored citizens of the five townships. While fully determined to carry the appeal to every person, the meeting yesterday afternoon, sad to relate, expressed some doubt in an indirect way if the people of the five townships will successfully meet this their first challenge since the yellow Japs raised death and destruction down upon our fellow citizens and American property at Pearl Harbor just ten days ago. The challenge is being issued, and if it is not met or (Continued on page four)

OPEN NIGHTS

Beginning Friday evening of this week, all Williamston stores and many of the other business houses will remain open until 9 o'clock for the convenience of their patrons. The postoffice, observing Saturday afternoon as a holiday, will remain open that afternoon. There are only seven more days left in which to complete the shopping task. Remember Williamston merchants when you go shopping. They have complete stocks and prices that are in line.

Series Of Accidents Reported Over The Weekend in County

No One Badly Hurt, But Loss Of Property Reaches New High Figure

No one was badly hurt but property loss figures continued to soar to new high perches in a series of automobile accidents in the county during the past week-end. Driving toward Williamston on the Jamesville Road late one night last week, Simon Daniel Moore crashed into the back of Asa Tom Lanier's 1941 Plymouth causing damage estimated by Patrolman Whit Saunders at \$75. Moore, operating Mrs. Effie Perry's automobile, stated that the bright lights on an approaching car blinded him and that he did not see the Lanier car until he had struck it. Early Saturday evening Mrs. Narcissus Griffin was driving her 1938 tudor sedan on the Jamesville-Road just the other side of Sweet Water Creek when she met Willie B. Carr, of Oak City Route 1. Mrs. Griffin says she was blinded by the lights of an approaching car and the two machines sideswiped each other, doing about \$50 damage to each one. Mrs. Griffin was accompanied by her daughter, Miss Lorraine Griffin, her son, C. D. Griffin, and Mrs. Lettie Griffin, but none of them was hurt. Later that night, Willie Newman, of Norfolk and Pamlico County, accompanied by his wife and son and a friend, crashed through a WPA (Continued on page four)

Oak City Young Man On Ill-Fated Vessel

As far as it could be learned here today, Martin County was not represented in the heavy casualty list resulting from the dastardly Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on Sunday, December 7th. It is fairly certain that several Martin County youths were members of the crews on at least two of the ill-fated ships in Pearl Harbor on that eventful morning. Albert Bennett, young son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Bennett, of near Oak City, was a destroyer crew member. Relatives here and in the county have had no word from him since the attack. It was learned this morning. Mr. Billie Gurganus, father of young Atwood Gurganus who is in the Pacific service, said this morning that they had heard from the young man, but that the letter was written a week before the attack. "We have heard nothing from him since that time," Mr. Gurganus said this morning. The soldier said in his letter that he had been participating in Army maneuvers, that he and other members of his company had been issued helmets, and that he did not like the Army so well. Atwood has a brother, Corporal Hugh Gurganus, who is a military police in Washington. There were several other Martin County young men on the ships attacked in Pearl Harbor.

More Troops Move To New Positions

Their schedules and destinations unannounced, rolling equipment and large numbers of soldiers continue to travel through here with a certain degree of regularity. Following the movement of several thousand men and possibly several hundred vehicles last Wednesday afternoon and night, several convoys have traveled northward through here. A fairly large convoy moved through here in record time Sunday just before noon. The outfit, believed to have been a part of the 94th Coast Artillery was traveling north. Numbers of empty trucks traveled through here early this morning on the return trip. About three hours later another convoy moved north through here. Large loads of gas tanks were seen in the convoy which also included quite a number of jeeps. The gas apparently was for use in balloons. The movement of the convoys has been speeded up since the first units of the 94th Coast Artillery traveled through here last Wednesday.

CHEERING 'EM UP

Quite a few local people are taking positive action in the Christmas cheer movement to cheer up the less fortunate in this community at Christmas time. A fast moving world has taken "Christ" out of Christmas and writes it "X-mas," but those who are making contributions to the cheer fund are certainly helping to put "Christ" back into Christmas. To date, a total of \$52.75 has been turned over to Treasurer John W. Hardy. Time is short for other donations. Contributions not previously acknowledged were made by the following: Dean Speight, \$1; Clyde Griffin, \$1; Miss Lora Sleeper, \$5; Mrs. W. E. Old, \$1; and Mrs. A. R. Dunning, \$5.

Fire Destroys Oak City Home Monday

Fire, the origin of which could not be ascertained immediately, destroyed the home of Chief of Police and Mrs. Wiley Craft in Oak City yesterday afternoon. Starting in a closet, the fire burned to the attic and was spreading rapidly before it was discovered. Mrs. Craft and her small children were at home, and they fled to safety, but very few of the contents were saved. Mr. and Mrs. Craft have nine children, the oldest being about twelve years of age. Known as the old Edmondson hotel, the home was the third one built in Oak City. The structure, valued in excess of \$1,500, was insured for \$800. No insurance was carried on the contents.