



# THE ENTERPRISE



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## Campaign For USO Gets Underway in County This Week

### First Report From Williams Chapel Community is Encouraging

Perfecting an organization last Friday evening, a special committee ably assisted by volunteers, has started a county-wide drive to raise \$1-135 for the USO. Only five of the ten townships, Jamesville, Williams, Bear Grass, Williamston and Goose Nest were represented, but special appeals have been directed to the other district leaders urging them to support the drive and help meet the county quota. There is every reason to believe that the amount will be raised, that everyone in the county will do his part in supporting the movement.

Six of the townships, Jamesville, Griffins, Bear Grass, Cross Roads, Hamilton and Goose Nest, are being asked to raise \$70 each. Williams and Poplar Point, two of the smallest townships in the county, are being asked to raise \$40 each. Williamston is already working to raise \$400 as its part, and Robersonville is being asked to raise \$225.

The first report, and an encouraging one too, was filed by Chairman H. M. Ainsley for Goose Nest Township this week. Heading the drive in the Williams Chapel community, Mrs. Ethel Leggett collected and turned in \$28. Chairman Ainsley adding that his committee was busily engaged in raising the remainder of the quota for his township.

Donations in the Williams Chapel community were made by the following:

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Bunch, \$1; Mrs. Lucy Bellflower, 50c; Mr. and Mrs. Peter Bellflower, \$1; Miss Ora Coffield, 50c; Mr. and Mrs. Coffield, \$1; Mrs. Joe Early, \$1; Mrs. Henry Early, \$1; Miss Harriet Everett, 50c; Miss Hattie Everett, \$1; Miss Margaret Everett, \$1; Mr. W. R. Everett, \$5; Mr. and Mrs. Luke Harrell, \$1.50; Miss Ruth Harrell, \$1; Mr. Haywood Harrell, \$1; Mr. and Mrs. Jasper Harrell, \$1.50; Mrs. Bettie Perry, \$1; Mr. and Mrs. Milton Robinson, \$1; Mrs. Julian Mizell, \$1; Misses Gladys and Stella Mizelle, 50c; Mrs. Carrie Thompson, 50c; Mrs. Mattie Williams, 50c; Mrs. Emily Smith, \$1; Mrs. Helen Smith, \$1; Mrs. Selma Turner, \$1; Miss Beatrice Turner, 50c; Mrs. Ethel Leggett, \$2.

Preliminary reports will be submitted at a meeting of the committees in the Legion Hut here this evening at 8:30 o'clock for the county, as a whole. Reports from the field clearly indicate that the campaign is progressing very well in most sections of the county, that little is being done in other communities.

Dr. John D. Biggs has been named treasurer of the USO in this county, succeeding Rev. John W. Hardy who was made chairman when R. H. Goodman resigned.

## Board Of County Commissioners in Uneventful Meet

### Authorities Handle Routine Business in Brief Session Monday Morning

The regular meeting of the Martin County commissioners last Monday was an uneventful one, the authorities handling their routine duties before adjourning for lunch. It was an off-day for the commissioners, the general public taking time out to observe the Fourth of July two days later. Very few visitors appeared before the meeting, and completing their work in record time some of the officials joined the county fire fire warden in fighting a fire in Robersonville Township. A few tax relief orders were granted, much time was spent reviewing reports submitted by the various department heads and a petition to include a mile of road in the highway system was received and approved.

Tax relief orders were granted to the following: Frank Hardison, Williamston Township, \$2 on account of physical disability. Smith Thompson, Hamilton Township, \$3.05 on account of physical disability. Elliot Jordan, Goose Nest Township, \$2.75 charged through error. Frank Brown, Goose Nest Township, \$2.75 charged through error. K. A. Edmondson, Poplar Point Township, \$4.00 on account of physical disability.

The board approved a petition to include in the State highway system about one mile of road running by

## Griffins Farmer Injured By Falling Log Wednesday

Mr. Mat Bissell, well-known Griffins Township citizen, narrowly escaped death while loading logs on a truck last Wednesday. Getting loose from its handlers, the log knocked Mr. Bissell down and rolled over him, breaking several ribs, damaging his collar bone and causing internal injuries.

His condition is improving rapidly in the local hospital and his recovery is expected if no complications develop. Dr. V. E. Brown said.

## Dry Weather Continues Firm Grip In The Immediate Area

Trailing two years marked by the absence of rainfall in any quantity, the dry season setting in weeks ago continues a firm grip on this immediate territory and is causing serious concern in some quarters. Widely scattered and falling in streaks as if the territory had been surveyed for them to fit in, intermittent showers have relieved the dry season in some few spots, but as a whole, crops in general have been materially affected and the fall harvest outlook is not at all bright.

Peanuts and cotton are doing well, but other crops are not doing at all well, one farmer declaring that the rainfall had been insufficient to wet the first fertilizer he put under his crops, that there wasn't enough water to even dampen his watermelons. Large numbers of farmers declare that they won't produce enough corn to begin to meet their own needs, and the tobacco crop, on an average, will not exceed 650 pounds per acre. There are a few fairly good tobacco fields scattered here and there in the county, but the crop as a whole

is the poorest in several years.

Advised last Sunday that rain fell in Williamston on Saturday, Herman Harrison, Poplar Point farmer, said he wished he had known it was going to rain for had he known it he would have walked all the way to town just to have seen one more shower. Farmers, worried over Hitler and dry weather in the past, are now worrying more about the dry weather it is becoming so serious.

Up until the first of this month about fifteen and a half inches of rain had fallen in 1942, compared with 17.75 inches in the first six months of 1941 and 14.04 for the corresponding period in 1940. About three and one-quarter inches of rain were recorded by the weather station on the river here for June. The recordings prove that rain does still fall in these parts, but in greatly reduced amounts these past three years compared with the fall for the first six months of 1939. The rainfall in that period is nearly twice as great as in the corresponding periods in 1942, 1941 and 1940.

## Army Finds "Spotter" Posts Poorly Manned

### AUTO STAMPS

Advised that there will be a check on the purchase of automobile use stamps, motor vehicle operators have bought heavily of the supply of the little \$5 stickers at the local postoffice during the past few days. Starting out with a supply of 1,400, the office here has sold a few more than 1,200 of the stamps to date.

It is not absolutely necessary to have the stickers to get a gas rationing card, but gas purchases without a stamp will be illegal after August 1st, according to an official announcement just released.

## Mrs. Annie Crisp Dies at Home Near Oak City Monday

### Funeral Services Held There Tuesday Afternoon; Burial in Oak City

Mrs. William Annie Crisp, widow of T. C. Crisp, died at the home of her son, Mr. Jesse Crisp, near Oak City, last Monday morning at 9:27 o'clock following a long period of feeble health. Despite her advanced age, she was able to be up until last Friday when she suffered a stroke of paralysis, her condition gradually growing worse until the end. Experiencing poor health for some time, Mrs. Crisp lived close at home for a long number of years, enjoying the peace and quiet of her home in Parmele for a long time and then in the home of her son during

## Hero's Identity Is Not Established

The identity of Earl D. Ashley, acclaimed hero of Williamston, has not been definitely established. No trace of a young man by that name could be found here, but it is believed that the hero referred to following his successful exploits against the Japs in the Battle of Midway, is Murray D. Ashley, a young man who came to this county from Chowan about five years ago. Murray D. Ashley is understood to have joined the Army, a later report stating that he was in the Air Corps.

The story of the hero who figured in an attack on a Jap carrier and who was wounded could not be checked at its source. It was learned that Chowan County has an Earl D. Ashley, but an investigation reveals that he is still at home. Murray Ashley, a former member of a string band in this county, is from Cisco, Chowan County.

### CONTRIBUTOR

While complete figures are not to be had at this time, it is fairly certain that D. M. Roberson will lead the list of individual contributors to the rubber salvage drive in this county. Handled by the Sinclear Service Station, the single collection weighed 2,117 pounds, the contributor turning over the proceeds to the current USO campaign.

Complete figures on the rubber drive ending today will not be available for several days, but preliminary reports maintain that the collection in this county will exceed 75,000 or 80,000 pounds.

## Not A Single Post In County Is Open Twenty-four Hours

### Faithful Few Have Cooperated Splendidly But Assistance Badly Needed

While praising the cooperative spirit and the able work carried on by a faithful few, representatives of the Army quite frankly explained at a meeting in the courthouse here Wednesday evening that the system for observing airplane movements over this county was very unsatisfactory, that it was a disgrace. The report was read before the small group following an unannounced check of the twelve ground observation posts in the county earlier in the day by Sergeant W. A. Shotwell and Privates I. B. Levitsky and John P. McCarthy of the U. S. Army.

"Not a single post in your county is being manned 24 hours a day," Private McCarthy said, explaining that the observation post offered the first line of defense and that it was vitally necessary for the protection of this section that a complete system be maintained after an efficient manner. "It isn't asking a lot of anyone to report for a few hours of work

## Holiday Is Quietly Observed in County

Observed two days late, the July Fourth holiday was described as the quietest during recent years in this part of the country. Four popcrackers, according to actual count, were heard to explode. Numbers of local people wandered off to the beaches, but Sunday and Monday reminded one a little bit of the old days before the horseless carriage. Travel through the town was much less than it was a year ago, and there were no accidents reported.

Five drunks were jailed last Saturday, but even if the number of drunks was increased by 150 per cent over the figure a year ago, the most glorious of days in American history, was quiet. The liquor store was closed and its understudy, Joe Wilson, went out of business unexpectedly, police declaring that the suspension of business in those quarters made a vast difference in behavior on the streets. "People did not block the sidewalks. They were not cursing and they were polite," one officer declared.

About the biggest gossip topic of the season was created when the flags were not displayed until Monday. His Honor, the Mayor, reasoned that since business would go forward on the Fourth and that Monday would be the day for celebrating, he would not hang out the flags until Monday. And did the "patriots" holler. Mayor Hassell assured everyone that the change would not be made permanent, and indirectly hinted that 99 per cent of those "belly-aching" about the flags not being out last Saturday had not volunteered to do the first damn thing in support of their country—the bunch of flag wavers!

## Escapes Injury In Auto Accident Late Tuesday

Mrs. L. H. Gurganus escaped with only minor injuries when her automobile, a 1941 Plymouth, crashed into H. S. Manning's Buick coupe parked on Houghton Street late last Tuesday night. Damage to the Buick was estimated at \$138, and it is understood that the damage to the other car will approximate \$100. The crash was heard several blocks away.

### OPENING DATES

The local tobacco market will open on Tuesday, August 25th, according to dates fixed and announced by the annual meeting of the United States Tobacco Association last week-end. The 1942 auction sales get underway on July 28th in the Georgia belt. South Carolina and the border markets open on August 6th, the Middle Belt on October 1st, and the Dark Fired Virginia belt on December 7th.

Sales this season will run for only five hours daily, starting at 9:30 each morning except Saturdays and Sundays.

## Officers Wreck River Distillery

Operating in the Roanoke River swamps not far from Broad Creek after a fashion designed by the Kentucky colonels and barons, a big liquor ring felt the sting of total war as delivered by Officers Joe Roebuck and Roy Peel and several federal agents a few days ago.

Tracking the operations down a few days before, Officer Roebuck called for help, and even with the additional aid the raiders worked long hours destroying the plant. The inventory submitted by Officer Roebuck follows:

One 4-horse upright boiler, two 500-gallon capacity stills, one 50-gallon doubler, a 1,500-gallon cooler, one 1,000-gallon superheater, an even dozen 300-gallon fermenters, seven 10-gallon kegs, fifteen 5-gallon tin cans, a big force pump powered by a steam engine, three 30-gallon tin tubs, 150 feet of pump pipe, 140 feet of copper tubing, half ton of coal, 400 pounds of rye meal, and thirty feet of 3-inch rubber hose. Very little sugar was found, the officers stating that a few small-size empty bags were seen around the plant which was cold.

Last Tuesday, the county officers wrecked a 50-gallon capacity copper kettle and poured out two barrels of stinking molasses beer in Cross Roads Township. No arrests were made at either plant.

## Women Will Tackle Red Cross Project

Called upon to make 36,000 surgical dressings for the Army, numbers of women in the Martin County Red Cross chapter have accepted the challenge and are making plans for starting the huge project in early August.

Complete details will be handled as soon as possible. During the meantime, Miss Nell Harrison is attending a special school in Kinston where under the direction of the Red Cross she will learn the project requirements. Returning here, she will instruct a number of women who will, in turn, supervise the work.

It is estimated that at least 200 hours of work will be required each week from early August until next January to complete the project. It is apparent that women and young girls, too, will have to volunteer their services on a larger scale than ever before if the project is to succeed. This work will be in addition to the regular Red Cross sewing room project.

## Start Work In Soil Conservation Unit

Work in the recently created Coastal Plain Soil Conservation District is being launched here this week with Conservationist H. F. McKnight in charge in this county. Only preliminary plans have been advanced so far, but, according to Mr. McKnight, a fairly definite program will be formulated within the next few days or as soon as possible.

The district, embracing the counties of Martin, Edgecombe, Pitt and Greene, was created a few months ago by a large vote of interested farmers. The new program, its value having been firmly established in other sections, is optional and is made possible without expense to the county.

Mr. McKnight, a native of Clinton, Arkansas, has been in North Carolina during the past two and one-half years doing soil conservation work principally in the western section. He will be joined by Mrs. McKnight over the week-end and they will be at home with the Brandons on Grace Street.

### SUSPENDED

Activities in the local Red Cross sewing rooms have been suspended on Tuesday evenings for the present, at least, according to the project chairman.

There just wasn't sufficient interest in the work to keep the room open evenings, but the work will be continued each Tuesday between 10 a. m. and 4 p. m.

A new sewing room quota will be released to the Martin County chapter within the next few days in addition to the order for 36,000 surgical dressings.

## Ten-Cent Decrease In Town's New Tax Rate

### Rate Decrease Is Based Principally On Value Increase

### Little Change Made in Estimates But Rate Will Be Dropped To \$2.40

Williamston's 1942-43 tax rate was tentatively fixed at \$2.40 the \$100 assessed property valuation by the town commissioners in regular session last Monday evening, the levy being 10 cents below the figure in effect for the fiscal year recently ended. Favored with an estimated gain of \$400,000 in property values this year over those of a year ago, the board found it possible to take care of a few increases and at the same time effect the ten-cent rate drop.

As a whole, the directors of the budget anticipate no great drop in revenue during the ensuing twelve months, but they did allow for minor decreases in revenue coming from water connections and allied services. While there were a few minor additions and changes in the budget figures for several of the departments, about the only noticeable increase, and that is quite small considering, was the one advancing policemen's salaries. Working on an average of 87 hours per week, Night Patrolmen Roebuck and Gurganus had their weekly pay increased from \$25 to \$30, and Officer J. H. Allsbrooks is to receive the same amount as the chief or \$32.50 a week.

It is estimated that \$75,992.50 will be required to operate the town and its various departments and meet bond principal and interest requirements during the new fiscal year. Starting out with a cash balance of \$6,147.00 as of July 1, the board proposed to raise the remainder as follows:

Collection of prior years' taxes, \$15,000; privilege taxes, \$500; tax penalties, \$850; auto tags, \$375; court costs, \$150; paving assessments, \$1,100; liquor profits, \$2,500; swimming pool, \$750; water sales, \$14,000; water connections, \$300, and the remainder or \$34,320.50 with a \$2.40 rate on an assessed property valuation of \$2,420,736.00. It will be noted that the rate will produce more than the stipulated amount, but the budget directors estimate that only that portion of the entire levy of \$58,097.66 will be collected during the new fiscal year. It will be seen that the board is expecting to collect \$15,000 from the 1941-42 and prior year taxes before advertising

(Continued on page six)

## Little Demand For Extra Gas Quotas

While motorists were busy signing up for gas rations under the permanent system, the rationing board yesterday was still meeting out extra quotas under the old plan. The demand was considerably less than it had been, possibly giving credence to reports that no rationing cards are necessary at some stations.

Allotments were made to the following:

- C. L. Tyson, Hassell, A minus three units.
- A. B. Ores, RFD 1, Williamston, A minus four units.
- Charlie Bennett, RFD 3, Williamston, A minus five units.
- Mrs. J. K. Keel, RFD 3, Williamston, A minus five units.
- J. H. Roebuck, Williamston, B-2 minus two units.
- B. L. House, RFD 2, Robersonville, A minus four units.
- W. N. Perry, Jamesville, A minus four units.
- Bessie Malone, Williamston, A minus four units.
- Frank Bell, Williamston, A minus four units.
- B. L. Johnson, Oak City, A minus three units.
- F. S. Barrett, RFD 1, Oak City, A minus five units.
- P. T. Norwood, Robersonville, A minus five units.
- Willie Jones, Robersonville, A minus six units.
- V. A. Ward, Robersonville, A minus four units.
- James Daniel, Jr., Robersonville, A minus four units.
- Ruby Williams, RFD 1, Oak City, A minus four units.
- Rudolph Parker, RFD 1, Oak City, A minus one unit.
- W. C. Wallace, Jamesville, B-1 minus two units.
- Alfred B. Wynne, Parmele, A minus five units.

## Cross Roads Farmer Undergoes Operation

Mr. Lester Peel, well-known Cross Roads farmer, underwent a major head-operation in a Durham hospital last Tuesday. According to reports reaching here, the young man did not regain consciousness until the following day. He is understood to be some better today and is expected to be able to return home within a comparatively short time.

### DRAFT CALLS

The seriousness of the war is being brought closer home in the new gasoline rationing program, but a far more serious meaning is associated with the July and August calls for young men by the Army. Figures and dates cannot be made public, but it is reliably understood that more men will be leaving this county for the induction centers during July and August than in any other period. Some less than a hundred are leaving before July is spent, and well over 100 are to answer the call before August is gone.

In these two months, it is understood, nearly half as many men will be called for armed service as are already in the service from this county.

## Local Youth Tells Of Experiences in Honolulu's Harbor

### Eli Gurganus' Ship Credited With Effective Defense On December 7th

Making his first visit home in months, Eli Gurganus, young son of Mrs. Mary Bonner Gurganus and the late George N. Gurganus, this week casually recalled his experiences in Honolulu Harbor on the fateful morning of December 7th last year. Claiming no praise and dismissing the part he and his shipmates played in the defense, the young man did admit that the personnel of his ship was cited for effective work against the invaders.

"We had just docked the day before in Honolulu, about five miles across from Pearl Harbor, and were anticipating a pleasant—but brief stay," the young Navy man said. "I had just finished making up my bunk when the first explosion was heard across the harbor. Our men took their stations and a few minutes later a message was heard advising them that the raid was 'no drill,'" the young man said.

According to the young gunner, tension began to mount, and the men hardened as they watched smoke and fire black out Pearl Harbor. "We continued at our posts, nervously waiting for the attack to spread. Several formations came toward us, and we opened fire dispersing them. One of the planes quivered in the air and veered off toward the ocean. It is believed that the plane crashed in the ocean out of our sight."

Young Eli declares he did not get frightened, but he did admit that he got a bit nervous when he saw a bomber moving directly toward his ship and dropping one bomb right after another. "We opened fire just as he neared our range and he turned back," the young sailor man admitted that a shift in the plane's direction eased the tension for the men aboard the ship.

Members of the crew were given recognition for having been in combat action.

Leaving today, the young man will report back for duty within the next few days.

## Elizabeth City Man Injured In Accident

George Lister Markham, 203 W. Church Street, Elizabeth City, was painfully but not badly hurt when his car, a 1941 Hudson sedan, turned over on a curve between here and Everett's this morning about five o'clock. Five stitches were required to close wounds on his mouth and knee.

Apparently driving rapidly or nodding at the wheel, Markham lost control of the machine on the curve when it ran off the concrete. The car bounced across the road drain and turned over in a corn field. Damage to the car was estimated at \$200 by Patrolman Whit Saunders who investigated the accident.

Markham was hospitalized here and later released.

### MIXTURE

Despite all the figuring and scheming by the big boys in Washington, some Martin County motorists have already found a loophole in the gasoline rationing system in addition to the lying and cheating so common in the past. Reliable reports state that some few who have exhausted their rations for the current period are mixing fairly liberal quantities of kerosene with the gasoline and continue to jump and jerk up and down the highways.

The mixture is not a very good one for any ordinary type of car engine, and those who resort to such a practice are likely to damage their machines.

## Rationing Board Allots More Tires Here This Week

### Board Certain It Will Never Catch Up With Demands For Tires and Tubes

Carrying over applications for almost as many tires as they rationed the Martin County Rationing Board now has little hope of ever catching up with demands. Yesterday, the board allotted nineteen tires, including all types, leaving applications for fourteen pending in addition to those filed with the board previously. Some of the applications are almost bewildered they are so old, but the board can't help it.

Two new auto tires and tubes were allotted to W. L. Brown, Jamesville, for carrying the mail.

Recapped tires for cars were allotted, as follows:

Robert L. Whitehurst, Williamston, two tires and two tubes for farm use.

Andrew Ernest Purvis, RFD 1, Bethel, four tubes for carrying on ministerial work.

**Tire Goes To Tyre**  
An obsolete tire and tube were allotted to Redden Tyre, farmer, for his car.

New truck tires were allotted, as follows:

Barnhill Supply Co., Everetts, one tire and tube for hauling lumber.

J. C. Norris, Williamston, one tire and tube, for tin and metal work.

John A. Mapping, Williamston, two tires and two tubes for general hauling.

Rogers Supply Co., Bear Grass, two tires for use in mercantile business.

Slade-Rhodes Co., Hamilton, one tire and tube for general hauling.

Roberson Slaughter House, Williamston, four tubes, for meat deliveries, wholesale.

Recapped tires for trucks went to the following:

Slade-Rhodes Co., Hamilton, four tires for farm purposes.

T. L. Roberson, RFD 2, Williamston, one tire for farm use.

Applications received since the last meeting and carried over for consideration later follow:

E. R. Turner, Palmyra, four recapped car tires for farm use.

Neal Godard, Jamesville, two new truck tires and two tubes for logging.

Marie Highsmith, Everetts, two new car tires for use as visiting nurse.

W. K. Parker, Williamston, two new truck tires and two tubes, for hauling scrap metal.

Roberson Slaughter House, four new truck tires and four tubes for delivering meats.

## War Situation In Russia Serious As Axis Push Forward

### Rommel Believed Waiting for Reinforcements Before Renewing Push

Featured by an untold slaughter and the mightiest tank battles of all times, the war in Russia today reflects a grave situation for the defenders and the whole Allied cause. Pushing ever forward, the Germans are understood to have crossed the Don River in force and are advancing a spearhead in the proposed route to oil fields. Communication with the north and south Russian armies has been cut, adding to the seriousness of the situation. The loss of that area or even the possible capture of the Caucasian oil fields will not mean that Russia is whipped, but it will mean that the war schedule is to undergo a change, that possibly present strategy will have to be altered in its entirety. Some observers state that if Hitler gains his ends in Russia, it will be necessary for the Allied powers to turn on and knockout Japan first before attending to Hitler and his gang.

While the war is at a critical stage on the Russian front, the tension in Egypt apparently has lessened. Either General Rommel is waiting for reinforcements before renewing his push or the British are making it so hot for him that he is stalled, temporarily at least.

In China, American airmen are bidding for the supremacy of the skies, late reports stating that they were making progress while the Chinese continue a stubborn resistance to the Japs.

A major battle is believed to have been fought on the supply route to Russia, the Germans claiming they sank 35 convoy ships and the Russians claiming they damaged the Tirpitz, pride of the Axis navy. Representatives of Britain, America and Russia are discussing plans for an alternate supply route to Russia.

## Ranking Army Men Are Here For Brief Stay

Headed by Brigadier General Tinner, several high ranking Army men stopped here for a brief period yesterday morning. Included in the group were two colonels, two lieutenant colonels, three majors and several non-commissioned officers. Where were they traveling? They did not say.