

Three Positions In Local Faculty Are Yet To Be Supplied

Schools To Open New Session
Thursday Morning at
9:00 o'Clock

Local school authorities yesterday appointed two teachers to the faculty of the local schools, leaving three important positions yet to be filled. All teachers for the elementary school are now employed and plans are complete for the operation of that department. The commercial, science, and shop departments in the high school are without heads seriously affecting preparations for the program in the upper grades.

It is hoped that commercial and science teachers may be secured within a few days.

Teachers employed yesterday were Mrs. Elizabeth Matlock Eagles and Mrs. Evelyn Hinnant Manning, of Williamston.

Mrs. Eagles is a graduate of Woman's College, U. N. C., and has taught for seven years in Cabarrus and Edgecombe counties. She will teach sixth grade work.

Mrs. Manning taught three years in Pitt county after receiving her degree from Atlantic Christian College. She will be employed in the new eighth grade.

Faculty members will assemble at the high school tomorrow morning to discuss plans and objectives for the year's work.

The local schools will open for the new term next Thursday morning at 9:00 o'clock. While no formal exercises are planned, parents are urged to accompany their children to the classrooms. Parents of beginning children should accompany them to the primary department.

Except for the nine o'clock opening on Thursday, the Williamston schools will begin the day at 8:30, with the tardy bell ringing at 8:40. This opening time will be in force during the fall months.

The lunchrooms at the schools will be in operation beginning next Monday.

All high school students including twelfth grade students and others interested in commercial subjects are expected to report Thursday morning. Textbooks will be distributed that day, and regular classes will begin Friday for high school students.

High school fees are as follows: \$2.40, State textbook rental; 60c, library fee; 50c, students enrolled in home economics classes; \$1.00 monthly for those students enrolled in commercial classes.

New teachers for the 1942-43 term, in addition to those elected yesterday, follow:

High School: Gayla Christine White, Birmingham, Ala.; Mrs. Jessie H. White, Williamston.

Elementary: Edith Bradley, Seaboard; Margaret Jordan Elliott, Edenton.

Eleven Colored Schools To Open

Thursday of this week will mark the end of vacation days for all school children in this county, the office of superintendent announcing that in addition to the ten white schools, the eleven colored units now idle will start the new term. Thirteen colored schools started the term several weeks ago, but one, Poplar Point, suspended classes when attendance figures reached a low point. It is likely that many of the twelve schools and possibly others will suspend operations during cotton-picking time.

The schools opening the new term on Thursday are, Dardens, Jamesville, Corey's, Smithwick, Bear Grass, Williamston, Williams, Biggs, Woolard's, and Burroughs-Spring Hill.

Reports from the other schools now operating state that attendance figures are below expectations, but that they have been very favorable at Jones and Everetts.

There have been very few changes in the colored school faculty personnel from last year, the superintendent explaining that less than half-dozen positions had to be filled. A new principal goes to Everetts to succeed the one who was transferred to Oak City where a resignation effected an opening.

Three Charged With Transporting Liquor

Tire and gas rationing are apparently meaningless when it comes to the illicit liquor traffic, for the trade still continues. Working on another case down in Free Union last Sunday morning about three o'clock, Patrolman W. E. Saunders and Constable Chas. R. Moore stopped a car and found about two gallons of liquor. Alonza Dempsey, driver of the old model Plymouth, John Manning, owner, and William Manning, a passenger, and all colored, were arrested and charged with transporting liquor. Dempsey and the car owner pleaded guilty and were fined in the county court. The passenger was released. The car was confiscated and ordered sold subject to a lien held by Washington motor company.

Yank Downed in East



Grinning at you is Lieut. W. W. O'Neill, an Oklahoman, who is the first U. S. Army Air Force fighter pilot to be shot down on the Egyptian front. On his second operational flight in North Africa, O'Neill's plane was hit. He fell into the sea and swam 2 1/2 miles to shore. He suffered injuries to arm and head. This photo was radioed direct from Cairo.

Classify Youth in Fifth Registration For Draft

DEFIES LAW

"I haven't written to Uncle Sam, and Uncle Sam has no business writing to me," John Williams, 43-year-old colored man of Goose Nest Township, was quoted as saying following his arrest by Officer J. H. Roebuck Sunday for allegedly refusing to register for possible military service.

In jail Monday afternoon, Williams, married and the father of several children, offered to defend his bull-headed stand by quoting the Scriptures, but he declared he had never heard that portion of the Holy Writ that told how the Master by force chased the money changers from the temple.

It is understood that prosecution of the case is possible in the state courts, or it may be turned over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Church Benefit Is Turned into Rough House In Griffins

Shooting, Stabbing and Jacking Order of the Night Last Saturday

Planned to raise money for a colored church, an ice cream supper or a benefit of that type turned out to be a rough affair in Griffins Township late last Saturday night. Scattering after quail fashion before a gun, all of the little band has not been rounded up and a detailed account of the trouble could not be had immediately, and officers have not yet been able to piece together much evidence even after a search lasting from about midnight until day the next morning. Warrants have been drawn in the case, but no arrests have been made so far.

A merry party was progressing peacefully at the home of Will Rome when Geo. Peterson, Nathan Crandell and one or two other Beaufort County colored men ventured across the boundary line and apparently tried to take charge. James Highsmith, respected Negro, was ordered to leave immediately. Highsmith was said to have turned and started to go, but just as he did someone drove a knife in his back. He crawled to safety, but his old model car, unprotected, was attacked, the Beaufort visitors slashing four tires and tubes on it beyond repair. The visitors then started tramping on Granville C. Moore's toes. An argument followed and Moore whipped out his pistol. Crandell went into action with a crack and cracked Moore's head. The man went down shouting. One ball struck Peterson, plowing through one lung and possibly both and lodging in his side. Others escaped with only inches to spare, one bystander showing Sheriff C. B. Roebuck where a bullet had almost pinned his hat to the door facing.

Moore, a county Negro now employed in Virginia, got in his car and left. Highsmith had issued a warrant against Crandell and Peterson.

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County Youth Recovering From Injury In Hospital

Injured while in the performance of his duty with the United States Navy some time ago, Mack Gilbert Rogerson, young son of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Rogerson of this county, is reported improving in the Marine hospital at New Orleans. No details have been received and it could not be learned definitely how he was injured or how badly. Young Rogerson was a fireman, first class, in the Navy.

Decrease Expected In County School Figures This Year

Numbers of Youngsters To
Stay Home, Others In
Defense Factories

That the shortage of teachers will be extended over into the student bodies in the several Martin County schools was predicted here yesterday morning when county school men met to discuss plans for opening the new term on Thursday morning of this week. No definite figures were mentioned, but several of the school men declared they would be pleased if their attendance figures did not shrink more than ten per cent under the stress of the times.

Quite a few youngsters have already entered war factories and they are not expected to report when the term opens. Others, possibly a goodly number, will choose or even be forced to remain at home and help with the crops or carry on the work left by those young men who have entered the armed services. It is reasonable to believe, however, that the parents and school patrons will do all in their power to get their charges into the schools.

Just recently recognized by officialdom, the twelfth grade is certain to experience a struggle for its existence, for many of those who planned to return for the extra courses of study will hardly find it "convenient" to continue their education at this time.

While a small decrease is to be expected in the elementary and even in the primary grades, the main loss is predicted in the high school. On the basis of preliminary estimates offered by the school men, the high school enrollment will drop to about 800 this term with the expectation that the elementary enrollment will stand right around 2,300.

A review of the opening-day enrollment figures in the white schools, elementary and high, follows for last year:

	Ele.	H.S.	Tot.
Jamesville	336	411	447
Farm Life	155	67	222
Bear Grass	236	68	304
Williamston	562	197	759
Everetts	208	208	
Robersonville	303	291	594
Gold Point	62	62	
Hassell	60	60	
Hamilton	178	178	
Oak City	225	185	410
Totals	2325	919	3244

Nazis Launch Drive Aimed At Important Suez Canal in Egypt

Fierce Fighting Being Continued on Stalingrad and The Rzhev Fronts

Possibly signaling the beginning of an all-out attempt to drive to Alexandria and thence to the important Suez Canal, the Germans yesterday launched an attack against the Allies in Egypt, the action diverting public attention from the critical front around Stalingrad where, nevertheless, the most fierce fighting of the war to date, continues unabated.

The drive in the Egyptian desert had advanced eight miles, according to last reports, but the Allied lines had not been broken. American airmen were said to be doing an effective work with their bombs directed against General Rommel's supply lines. It is not definitely known yet whether the drive is a test or the beginning of a full-scale attack. Apparently Rommel must strike now or else accept a disadvantage of a balance of power later. An attack by an Italian force was repulsed on the main front in the Qattara area near El Alamein.

On the other side of the African continent, Dakar is claiming attention. One report says Laval is about to turn it over to the Germans, and another report indicates that the Allies may be moving in on the port.

Good and bad reports come from the Russian front. Northwest of Stalingrad, the Russians have repulsed the Italians but the defenders were forced to withdraw to the southwest of the city, but the withdrawals were effected only after heavy losses, estimated at 48 tanks.

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ALL-TIME RECORD

An all-time sales record was established by the county liquor store here last Saturday when possibly 1,200 pints of the spirits were exchanged for an amount slightly in excess of \$1,300, or \$1,325.70 to be exact. The sales have often exceeded \$1,000 in a single day at the store here, and once or twice they had passed the \$1,200 mark, but last Saturday was the first time they had jumped to the thirteen hundred-plus mark.

No comparison is available at this time, but there is some doubt if bond sales totaled half that much.

Price Trend Some Stronger On Tobacco Market After Ceiling Is Announced By The Government

Arrests Reach All-Time High Figure In County Last Month

Crime reached an all-time high point in this county last month when the number of arrests soared almost to the 100 mark. Very few of the crimes were considered serious, but the trend of the times reflected in the increased number of men going into the hoosegow is making Sheriff C. B. Roebuck scratch his head and pull the little remaining hair on his crown.

Of the ninety-five persons locked in the county jail during the month of August, sixty-five were placed there for being publicly drunk. Five were arrested and jailed for drunk-driving. Six were charged with assaulting their fellowman with deadly weapon. Officers, after studying the records, are convinced that eighty-one of the cases had their origin in the use of intoxicants.

Other cases included, larceny and receiving, three; bastardy, two; reckless driving, one; no driver's license, one; non-support, one; draft dodging, one; liquor law violations, three, and others, two.

Nearly three big sheets in the jail record book were filled, the names of 46 white persons being inscribed there with indelible carbon. While most of those jailed during the period were between 21 and 31 years of age, there were those who were only in their teens and others who had passed the three-score mark.

In addition to the number arrested and jailed, there were others, a good number, who fell into the hands of the law and who escaped jail by posting bonds immediately. And too, there were those violations that went undetected, or where arrests were impossible.

Farmers Dubious As To Real Meaning Of Price - Fixing Plans

Ceiling Certainly Has Not Yet Caused Decrease In the Prices Here

Unless they had learned it from the papers, farmers and others, too, in this section never would have known that a ceiling had been established for the control of inflationary tobacco prices over the week-end, reliable reports coming from the local market yesterday and today clearly indicating that the price trend was equally as strong as it was the latter part of last week, if not some stronger. The price ceiling announcement came as a surprise, however, and farmers freely expressed their displeasure, but to-day there is a belief in some quarters that the action will possibly help the growers in this county.

The workings of the plan are not definitely known, but it is generally believed that no move will be made to lower tobacco prices from the levels reached last week, that the plan was designed to check an unreasonable advance in prices similar to those received back in 1919. While it may be made permanent, the ceiling now in effect is subject to be altered to eliminate any inequalities it may have caused. Discussions are being held by warehousemen, farm representatives and others, and it is generally thought that every effort will be made to give the farmer a fair price for his tobacco.

Just how the new order will affect prices now or later no one seems to know definitely. Apparently the ceiling will permit an over-all average of about 35 cents a pound. Some farmers are of the opinion that it will have a tendency to hold down the prices for the better quality grades and possibly boost the inferior types. In that case, Martin County farmers, who admittedly have an inferior quality crop, will possibly benefit.

The order, issued over the week-end after four days of selling on the Bright Belt markets, provides that the "weighted average" price per pound paid by any person for flue-cured tobacco shall not exceed the average price per pound paid by such person for flue-cured tobacco during the period from August 24, 1942 to August 28, 1942.

Reports from the belt, as a whole, (Continued on page six)

County Schools Open Term Next Thursday

Teacher Personnel Not Quite Complete In All The Schools

Many New Bus Drivers But Bus Routes Remain About The Same

Pep, vim and vigor, usually present on the eve of the opening of a new school term, trailed along here yesterday morning when the several principals met in the office of the county superintendent and discussed final plans for the new session beginning Thursday morning of this week. There was a marked sense of responsibility present, all right, but troubled by teacher appointments and the uncertainty of many things, the school men simply did not appear as optimistic as they generally are at this season of the year. The very fact that many of them are continuing in the school profession proves that they are still interested in the youth of the land, and it is reasonable to expect that they will do all in their power to maintain the high scholastic work and do all they can for the youths in their charge.

All of the schools will open the new session at 8:30 o'clock that morning except Bear Grass and Williamston, these two stating that at the school there will open promptly at 9 o'clock. Informal programs will be held in several of the schools, but in most of them the pupils will report directly to their respective rooms, get their books and assignments and make ready for honest-to-goodness work without fan fare or incident. Principal H. M. Ansley of the Oak City schools, explains that time can be saved if the pupils in the high school, from the eighth through the eleventh grades, will submit the \$2.40 book rental fee the very first day. This fee is uniform throughout all the high schools, but does not include library and other minor fees.

There have been quite a few changes in the bus driving personnel, but the routes remain virtually the same with no great variation in the schedules.

The mad scramble for teachers is about over in most of the schools, a review showing that all teacher positions are filled.

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Test Blackout Is Quite Successful

The third test blackout in this district last Friday night was described as very successful by civilian defense officials who were assigned to observe the response. The district was in darkness within less than nine minutes, while in Williamston, the lights were out within less than a minute. Wardens and others charged with handling the blackout reported splendid cooperation on the part of the general public, but two service men insisted on driving through without lights. Officers were called to extinguish one or two lights carelessly left burning. The warning was sounded at 9:20 here and the all-clear was heard thirty minutes later.

No advanced warning will be issued for blackouts in the future, and as far as the people know it could be a real alarm or just another test. It is no use to gamble, and local people are warned to keep in mind the meaning of five blasts on the fire siren.

CRITICAL TIMES

Many do not recognize them, but these are critical times we are now plunging through, according to reports coming from several of the rural schools. To aggravate the gas, tire, fuel shortage, some of the rural schools are now unable to get wood for firing their cook stoves.

Jos. W. Cowen Dies Suddenly at Home Friday Afternoon

Funeral Services Conducted For Local Resident Sunday Afternoon

Joseph Walter Cowen, well-known local resident, died suddenly at his home on East Main Street here late last Friday afternoon, the victim of a heart attack. Working in the kitchen at the time, Mr. Cowen fell to the floor. Members of the family, hearing him fall, rushed from another part of the house and found him dead. He had had an attack the day before, but was feeling much better Friday and was unusually active around the home. Just a few minutes before he died he talked with his brother and said then that he didn't believe it possible for him to live through another attack. Mr. Cowen had been in declining health for possibly twenty years, but during that time he was able to be up most of the time and handle light duties around the home.

The son of the late Henry and Roxanna Boyette Cowen, he was born in Poplar Township 67 years ago last February. When a small child he moved with his parents to the Whitaker farm where he spent a few years before coming to Williamston. Later he returned to the farm and spent about ten years, coming back to Williamston to take a job as rural free delivery carrier about 1910. He retired some ten or twelve years later on account of failing health.

When a young man he was married to Miss Della Gurganus who survives with one daughter, Mrs. Ellen Twiddy. He also leaves a granddaughter and an adopted daughter, Elizabeth Davenport Cowen. His walk through life was humble in the sight of his Maker, his love for the homeless and needy revealed.

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Firemen Get Two Calls In As Many Days Here

Local volunteer firemen were called out Sunday afternoon at 12:30 o'clock and again this morning at 2:10 o'clock to fires of little or no consequence.

The first call was to a small tent house on Jamesville road where smoke, filtering through a flue, filled the attic but did no damage. This morning a short circuit fired a large truck at the plant of the Williams-son Package Manufacturing Company, near the river, doing very little damage.

Marked Reduction In Tire Allotments

There is still an urgent demand for gasoline, but all indications point to a time when there'll be more gas than there are tires and the gas will be worthless. The change, little noticed from day to day, is taking place, however, and steadily, too. Tire quotas for the county have been materially reduced for September from the August allotments, meaning that more vehicles will go off the highways and with gas rations left over.

The September allotment of new car tires is compared with the August quota as follows:

	New Recaps	Tubes
September	5	25 19
August	8	35 26

The truck tire quotas for September and August are, as follows:

	New Recaps	Tubes
September	34	38 38
August	50	67 63

In the State, as a whole, new car tires have been decreased from 1,455 to 900, and the number of truck tires was decreased from 8,798 to 7,027.

It is pointed out that cooler weather will help relieve the tire situation, but it must be remembered that thousands of motorists are entering the winter season with weak tires. About the only relief offered will be found in the rationing of ten bicycles during the current month.

Prowler Dashes To Safety Saturday

Caught peeping into windows of a home on Houghton Street here late last Saturday night a prowler dashed to safety when he was detected and chased by residents in the community. A fair description of the man was gained, but no arrest has been made.

Thinking some kind of game was in progress as the prowler led the chase by his home on Church Street, Banker Herman A. Bowen soon learned differently and joined the race. The prowler fell down in the Episcopal churchyard, but soon gained his feet and used them to marked advantage to escape in the dark of Academy Street.