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Harvest Progresses Rapidly In County In Past Few Days

Cotton Picking Well Advanced and Some Farmers Are Digging Peanuts

Following a long tobacco season, Martin County farmers are about to catch up with the possibility that they will even get ahead of the regular harvesting season. Reports coming from many parts of the county indicate that cotton picking is well advanced, that some of the gins have as much baled cotton on their platforms now as they ordinarily have there in mid-October. Cotton gins started operations in the county week before last on a small scale. About a dozen colored schools suspended classes last Friday for at least a month and with the children going into the patches, it is quite certain that the harvest work will be rushed to completion.

Reports indicate that the cotton crop will be short this year in the county with the quality hardly as good as it was last season. Approximately 5,000 bales were handled by the gins in the county last year, observers declaring that the total production this season will hardly total half that amount.

Declared to be unusually early and, in the opinion of many, entirely too soon, the peanut digging season is getting underway in some sections of the county this week. One or two farmers in the Robersonville section and a few in the upper part of the county have already started digging operations. However, as a whole the peanut crop will be harvested possibly later than usual in the county this season. It is quite certain that the work will not get underway on any appreciable scale before sometime next month. In most cases the dry weather retarded the crop, and late rains came along to produce what some describe as a second crop. Finding the "second" crop better than the first, many farmers plan to wait as long as they possibly can before starting digging operations. In those few cases where the crop apparently is well advanced, the farmers have reasoned that it will be better to dig early and save the early crop rather than wait for the late crop to mature fully. The crop, as a whole is believed to be fair, most farmers declaring that it is next to impossible to predict with any degree of accuracy the quantity and quality of the crop until it is in the bag.

A few farmers have started digging sweet potatoes, but in those cases the harvest was started mainly to supply home needs. Getting nineteen bushels from a comparatively small area, Farmer H. U. Peel stated that the potatoes were unusually large and that he was considering digging his entire crop as soon as possible.

Farmers, as a whole, are fairly well pleased with tobacco market reports and are optimistic over the general farm outlook, but they admit that the corn harvest is going to prove very disappointing.

Mrs. Green Heads Red Cross Project

Mrs. N. C. Green was named this week to succeed Mrs. A. R. Dunning as chairman of the Red Cross sewing room maintained in the Woman's Club hall by the Martin County chapter of the American Red Cross. Ably handling the work as project chairman since the project was started, Mrs. Dunning explained to the chapter chairman that pressing duties made it impossible for her to continue, that she would gladly assist others in any way she could.

While the project has been handled by a comparatively small number of willing volunteers, much work has been accomplished, and reliable reports would seem to indicate that some of the garments have found their way to those lands where many are facing a hard winter without much food or ample clothing.

Rush Continues For Supplemental Cards

The decrease in the demand for supplemental gas rations expected following the release of a special report by the Bernard Baruch committee, and urgent appeals and warnings by the President and OPA Director Leon Henderson, has not materialized in this county, as yet, according to Herbert L. Roebuck, a member of the rationing board in this county.

It was pointed out this week that quite a few motor vehicle owners are demanding more gas even though they know that their tires are about to give way. The serious rubber shortage has been discussed sufficiently for everyone to know that there'll not be enough tires to meet even the most urgent needs. And yet, the call for gas never slackens.

Army Keeping Faith, Officer Tells Legion

COMMISSIONERS

Scheduled to meet in special session Friday morning of this week at 9:30 o'clock, the county commissioners are expected to appoint a special or temporary tax collector to handle the new 1942 collections until the regular tax collector settles for the 1941 books. State law does not permit the regular collector to accept the new books until he has settled with the county for the old. To prevent the overlapping next year, the commissioners have already ruled that the tax sales for the 1942 tax year will be scheduled in ample time next year for the collector to settle for the old taxes and be ready to take over the new books in the late summer.

Russians Line Guns Hub To Hub To Stop Nazis At Stalingrad

Germans Continuing Drive Toward Grozny Oilfields In the Caucasus

Lining their field artillery units hub to hub before Stalingrad, the Russians, according to late dispatches continue to hold the Nazis at bay in the drive toward the important industrial city. It is a fight to the finish, however, and just how long the defenders can hold out against the superior German forces is problematical. Tanks, including a new and superior type, are being driven from the assembly lines in the Stalingrad factories to the front a few miles away. Previous claims made by the Germans indicated that the industrial wheels in the city of about a half million population had been stopped. It is admitted that the city itself is little more than a shell after hundreds of Stuka dive bombers had pounded it for days.

Fighting raged unabated west and southwest of the menaced city, the Red army bulletin said, after the official newspaper Pravda had reported that German shock troops were "at Stalingrad" but were being repulsed by point blank artillery fire and bayonet charges.

West of Stalingrad, Soviet troops successfully countered assaults by massed German tanks and infantry. In one sector two infantry regiments supported by two columns of tanks attacked Red army positions.

Running into a shattering bombardment by the big guns of the Red Army, the German troops and machines were scattered in disorder, suffering heavy losses.

Soviet cavalry in action northwest of Stalingrad wiped out 500 German soldiers in a stalwart support of Red army infantry.

Russian defenders of the Grozny oil fields fell back to a new defense line in the Mozdok area of the east Caucasus after stubborn fighting against German tanks which swarmed southward across a water barrier—evidently the Terek River—and attacked Soviet positions, the high command said.

Some 2,000 Axis troops were reported slain along the upper Don south of Voronezh, where five furious German attacks were repulsed during the day. The Russians also wrecked 20 German tanks and 30 armored vehicles and captured numerous prisoners.

Late claims coming out of Berlin maintain that the Germans are continuing their drive on Stalingrad, and that the city's main railroad station had fallen into their hands.

The importance of the Stalingrad battle is best understood when associated with future plans of the Germans. Should the city fall, a drive either on Moscow or the mighty Nazi striking power would be shifted possibly to the Middle East. The move would aggravate greatly the Allied defense.

While the war is still centered in the Stalingrad battle, the greatest in all history, there are a few other operations progressing in various parts of the world. Little has been heard from the Far East and the Southwest Pacific during the past few days, but bombings over the continent are still underway and the Allies are driving toward the capital of Madagascar off the coast of Africa. The Japs in New Guinea are reforming their lines apparently for a continuation of their drive toward Port Moresby.

In Egypt, while there is little activity in the main war zone, the Allies, including American airmen successfully pounded and raided Tobruk and Benghazi (important Axis supply bases. Unrest continues in India, late reports stating that defense work is being seriously retarded there.

A small town on the West Coast was bombed this morning by a Jap plane believed to have been based on a sub. The bombing, doing very little damage, was the first air attack on the coast since the war.

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Legionnaires Hear About New Methods Employed By Army

Captain Anneberg Says Believe in Army and Army Will Believe in You

Against a second world war setting and with some of its members preparing to re-enter the armed forces, the installation of the John Walton Hassell Post of the American Legion here last evening was handled after a serious fashion and with added interest expressed in the event and all Legion affairs in general.

Welcomed by Mayor John L. Hassell, the Legionnaires heard a general entertainment program offered by the Bear Grass quartet, and tris from Camp Davis and the Williamston High School. Justice Hassell, explaining that it was his unwelcome task as chairman of the draft board to send young men to war nearly a quarter of a century ago, it was always a pleasure to welcome the Legionnaires back and to Williamston. In his brief welcoming address, the mayor declared that it would be either fetters or freedom, that he knew the American people would choose and fight for freedom.

Major Roy Wood, scheduled to deliver the main address and feature the installation exercises, was unable to attend and Captain F. K. Anneberg, of Camp Davis, addressed the group. Centering his speech around the topic of "Our Army," the officer based his theme on the poem, "In Flanders Field . . ." and declared that the standing army of this nation is keeping faith with those who had sacrificed their lives, not only in this and the last war but also in other wars. The captain urged the civilian population to believe in the Army, that by doing that "the Army will believe in you."

Discussing a few of the problems that are not any too well understood by the general public, Captain Anneberg stressed the importance of military secrets. "The boys don't say much in their letters, because they have been told how vital and how important it is to guard secrets. "The Army," the officer continued, "is not working exactly as it did in the last war. Instead of calling for so many men without regard for qualifications, the Army now calls for them by code and according to their fitness to do specific things. The young soldier may be out of place during the first few days he is in the service, but a place is soon found for him where he can do his best. Men are trained and they are not being "shoved" after a few weeks of training. Preparation is everything in the Army, and schools are held day and night for the men. If they understand 'why' and the 'how' of doing anything they can do it quicker and better."

There's little jealousy or friction between the various branches of the Armed forces, the officer declared, adding that the Army was proud of the Navy and the Navy was proud of the Army. He also declared that there aren't many "gold bricks" in the Army any more. "Every man must think for himself."

Concluding his talk, the Army man urged his listeners to evaluate what they read, see and hear, and casually intimated that much of what one reads, hears and sees is there because it makes good heading, or is good to hear or see. As for winning the war, Captain Anneberg said, "Remember we did it once, and we will do it again."

Tells Of Attack On Pearl Harbor

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With a 48-hour leave of absence and anxious to get out of Norfolk for the week-end, Sailor Jackson bought a ticket for Bethel last Saturday. Upon reaching Williamston he decided to go no farther. Sunday morning found him waiting for the doors of the Baptist Church to open for the 11 o'clock service. He met Mr. V. D. Godwin and received an invitation to dinner.

Reviewing his travels but guarding against divulging any secrets, the young sailor said he was in Pearl Harbor on the eventful morning of December 7th. Strangely enough his ship was right beside another on which Mr. Godwin's brother was stationed. "I saw it hit and several men were killed," he told Mr. Godwin. There was plenty of action, according to the young man.

A native of Texas, the trip was the first to the east for the youngster who is rounding out nearly two years of service and who is barely 20 years of age. He wanted to know if there were any ranches around here. Advised there was none, the youngster showed much interest in raw tobacco on the warehouse floors. Expressing his appreciation for the dinner invitation, Sailor Jackson bade his host goodbye and boarded a late afternoon bus for Norfolk.

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War As It Relates To Home Front Is Reviewed for Week

"We Are Not Doing Enough," In This War It Is Kill Or Be Killed

"We are not doing enough," said the President, and he added, "in this war it is kill or be killed." In this "toughest war of all time" we are going to have to get down to brass tacks—and turn the brass tacks into bombs and bullets.

To an extent we have been doing this, but now the need is terribly urgent and materials scarce. Now we must have war goods in greater volume than ever—and in a shorter time. Our enemies don't wait. Steel mills, eating up almost five million tons of scrap metal a month, are running on almost a day-to-day basis. We are dangerously short of copper, tin, and other non-ferrous metals.

That's why our school children—30 million of them—are being enlisted to comb our homes, backyards, and farmyards for scrap to feed the steel giants. That's why our kitchens must shower down old tin cans by the million so that we can reach our goal of 3,000 tons of household tin a year recovered in 17 new "dettinning" plants. That's why we must save waste fats and greases, turn in the half billion pounds we have been asked to salvage. These fats would help make enough bombs to cripple the German war machine, or enough explosives to fire 1,250,000 anti-aircraft shells.

Last year our production of all-wire coat hangers, if made into military barber wire, would have grinded the earth six and one-half times.

We shall not be making wire hangers this year.

Labor Problem Still Paramount

To do all that we must do to stop the Axis hordes, merely to get enough skilled workers and fighting men for this gigantic job, is going to be a tough business for all of us. In 116 of 160 critical war production areas there are serious labor shortages, and in all these areas there are shortages of some kinds of skilled workers. Employment in the automotive industry, now making weapons, has passed the 800,000 mark—000 workers will the industry have reached peak production. There'll be almost five million women in war industries by the end of this year. More millions of them will be needed by 1943, not only in war plants but in the fields. Small towns and larger cities lacking war industries are losing their young men to the armed forces, the boys, women and older men to war work in nearby or distant industrial areas. These towns are short-handed, and yet it is just

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Indictment Pending In Case Charging Draft Law Violation

Federal Bureau of Investigation Said to Be Preparing Indictment

Refusing to register for military service, John Williams, 43-year-old Goose Nest-Township colored man, is said to be facing indictment in the federal courts. If tried and adjudged guilty, Williams faces a possible five-year prison term or a \$10,000 fine or both. Williams was arrested on Sunday, August 30, by Officer J. H. Roebuck and has been held in the county jail since that time.

An agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation reviewed the case here yesterday and according to reliable information preliminary plans were made to indict Williams and throw his case into the courts as soon as possible.

Going into the jail, the FBI agent and representatives of the County Draft Board were said to have asked Williams to register. A registration card was prepared, and Williams said he could not write. It was learned that he had written a letter, but "leaning over backwards," the agent asked the man to make his mark. Williams was said to have refused to do that, and after conferring with his superiors, the agent intimated that charged would be brought against the man.

Williams is married and has children, and it is quite possible that he will not be called, certainly not any time in the immediate future, for flight service. Apparently he chose to defy the draft law for one reason or another, and now he is facing trouble in the courts. When he was arrested, Williams was quoted as saying that he did not answer the draft board letters because he had not written to the government and the government had no business writing to him.

No statement could be had from the agent, but it is understood that several other cases having to do with delinquency were reviewed, that possibly some action will follow in due time.

It has been pointed out that there were draft law violators in the last war, that while all of them were not caught before the war ended, they were arrested and prosecuted after the war.

Prices Reach New High Peak On Local Market As Sales Pass The Three Million-Pound Mark Today

Draft Board To Reclassify All 1-B Men Beginning This Week

Meeting here next Thursday evening, the Martin County Draft Board will start reclassifying all county registrants in the 1-B classification. Draft Board Chairman R. H. Goodman explaining that the 1-B ratings would be eliminated and that the men would be placed in either 1-A or 4-F classifications. It is estimated that there are between three and four hundred Martin men in the 1-B classification, and that a large majority of them will be placed in the 1-A group. Classifications will be determined according to rules and regulations established by the Selective Service System, meaning that a 1-B registrant with remedial or minor physical defects will be placed in 1-A and those with bad defects will go into the 4-F group.

The reclassification of the 1-B group registrants means that the Selective Service is digging the bottom of the barrel before calling married men. The board has from now until the latter part of December to reclassify the 1-B men, but it is likely that most of them will be regrouped before that time.

In addition to its reclassification work this week, the draft board will consider about 25 or 30 claims for deferment. Most of the claims come from farm operators.

That the draft trend is toward married men is further evidenced by the receipt this week of a special questionnaire for married men. The questionnaire will be used only in doubtful or borderline cases, and will be used to determine the status of the married registrant.

Very Few Cases On Civil Calendar In The Superior Court

Only 26 Cases Scheduled for Trial Next Week Other Than Divorce Actions

Other than the eighteen divorce cases, a comparatively small number of civil actions has been scheduled for trial in the Martin County Superior Court during the two weeks term opening next Monday. The criminal docket has not been prepared, but it is understood that only a small number of cases of that type will be on the docket. Preparing the civil calendar a few days ago, members of the county bar association expressed the belief that the criminal docket could be handled the first day and went ahead and calendared the eighteen divorce cases for trial the following day.

Very few of the civil cases carry little more than passing interest as far as the general public is concerned. Several of them were placed on the calendar subject to rulings and will hardly reach the jury.

The civil calendar carries the following cases with the exception of the eighteen applications for divorce: Wednesday, Sept. 23. Lumber Co. versus Cowen, Fertilizer Co. versus Carter, Griffin against Barber, Fertilizer Co. against McMillan, Bunting versus Salsbury, Whitaker versus Roberson, Winborne against Jenkins, Liley versus Miller.

Thursday, Sept. 24. Bryant versus Bryant, Fertilizer Co. against Hopkins, Close versus Hyman, Thompson versus Sawyer, Mizelle against Rogerson.

Monday, Sept. 28. Bailey against Insurance Co., Dixie Motors against Barber, Dixie Motors versus Critcher, Griffin versus Ross, Wiggins against Roberson, Bell versus Coburn, Bryan versus Stevenson, Hyman against Porter.

Tuesday, Sept. 29. Everett versus Smith Douglass, Griffin versus Ross, Roberson against Perkins, Mobley against Mobley, Woolard versus Woolard.

More Martin Men Entering Service

In addition to the large number of men being called into the armed services from this county, quite a few are volunteering, especially in the Army and Navy Air Corps and the Navy.

According to an announcement just received from the Naval Aviation Cadet Selection Board, Atlanta, Burras Allen Critcher, Jr., and Edward Philo Cunningham, Jr., both of Williamston, enlisted for flight training in the U. S. Naval Reserve last week. They were preceded by a number of other county boys.

Dallas R. Taylor, formerly of Robersonville but for sixteen years associated with the Roxboro Courier, has enlisted in the Navy and reports for duty on Saturday.

Dick Mallory, formerly of Oak City and more recently stationed with the State Highway Patrol at Rocky Mount, has entered the Coast Guard and is to report soon for duty in Hawaii.

Clayton Crofton, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Crofton, of Williamston, is now attending an Army pre-flight school at Maxwell Field, Montgomery, Ala., and is getting along very well there, according to a report just received from the public relations office of the pre-flight school.

ROUND-UP

Some improvement on the crime front in this community was detected last week-end when the regular round-up of alleged law violators netted only an even dozen as compared with seventeen arrested and placed in the county jug the previous week-end.

Nine of the dozen were arrested and jailed for being drunk. One was jailed for alleged violation of the health laws, another was detained for investigation, and no specific charge was lodged against a third man arrested. Only two of the twelve persons arrested and jailed during the period were white.

County Legion Post Installs Officers at Meeting Last Night

Dr. John D. Biggs Succeeds J. R. Winslow As Post Commander

Installing their new officers here last evening, members of the John Walton Hassell Post of the American Legion started a new period in their organization with renewed interest and with the expressed determination to build their membership to 200 and to take a more active part in home front duties. Dr. John D. Biggs was installed to succeed Mr. J. R. Winslow as post commander, the installation exercises being held under the direction of Department Vice Commander R. W. Alston. Dr. Biggs accepted the challenge his new position offers and pledged his best efforts toward fulfilling his duties. "Men on the fighting line are doing and will continue to do their part, but they can't fight without home support, and we must see that they get it," the new commander declared.

The complete list of officers follows:

John D. Biggs, commander; W. C. Wallace, Joe Ayers and W. H. Gray, vice commanders; W. E. Dunn, adjutant and finance officer; H. G. Horton, service officer, national defense officer, Boy Scout officer and chairman, sons of Legion; Arthur Roberson, sergeant-at-arms; Dr. W. R. Burrell, chaplain; P. M. Holliday, historian; W. H. Gray, athletic officer; Bob Taylor, child welfare officer; H. L. Swain, Americanism officer, boys' state officer and publicity chairman; Sam Gelsinger, graves registration officer; J. A. Ward, employment and membership officer.

Several motions were passed, one of them embracing an amendment calling for the appointment of W. K. Parker to the special committee to investigate the possibility of establishing a home guard unit in the county. Legionnaire Chas. R. Mobley, holder of the Distinguished Service Cross awarded by four countries, United States, England, Belgium and France, was recognized before the group at the direction of the commander, and Legionnaire Mayo Peel, the first World War I veteran to be called for service again, was also recognized.

Commander Biggs urged the cooperation of Legionnaires in supporting the Legions' annual fair opening the latter part of this month, and Rev. Z. T. Piehoff, speaking for the ministerial association, expressed appreciation for the definite stand the officers had taken to eliminate the sale of beer and use of intoxicants at the fair this year.

Dinner was served under the direction of Comrade John A. Ward, and special pictures of plane factories and the Merchant Marine were shown by Rev. Z. T. Piehoff.

Record Poundage Is Offered On Market Here In Recent Days

Large Portion of Crop Already Been Sold in This Part of Bright Belt

Reports coming from farmers and supported by reliable figures state that tobacco prices are "red hot and sky high" on the Williamston market this week. Farmers declared they were bringing more money yesterday and today than at any time this season, including opening day. However, the green types had few friends, but in those cases the prices were said to be holding their own. Possibly at no other time during the current season have farmers expressed greater satisfaction with their sales than they did yesterday and this morning.

The better grades, while holding to a common average in the high forties, are breaking over fairly often into the fifties and averages of 46, 47 and 48 cents are fairly numerous. But the center of attention is not necessarily on those better types of tobacco; it is on those medium and inferior quality grades or on the kind that most of the farmers in this immediate territory have for sale.

The poundage on the local market is climbing by leaps and bounds, Supervisor C. U. Rogers stating this morning that sales were well over the three million pound mark and were climbing just as fast as orderly and even selling periods would permit. With block sales in effect nearly every where, the current crop is rapidly disappearing from the farms, and it is estimated that a large portion had already moved to market during the past fourteen selling days.

The sales on the market are already about half as large as they were last season, and if the record is maintained the total will exceed that of last year. Every indication points to an increase in sales despite a general decrease in production reported by farmers in this immediate territory.

Despite block sales, farmers are finding it more convenient and equally as advantageous to sell on the Williamston market than on the larger ones. As a result new patrons are being seen on the market here day after day. More Martin farmers are selling on the home market than heretofore, and they voluntarily de-

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Well-Known Farmer Attempts Suicide

Firing a .22 calibre bullet into his head this morning about 9:30 o'clock, Jimmie Harris, well-known Poplar Point Township farmer, was reported in a critical condition at a Washington hospital early this afternoon. No direct statement could be had, but reports coming from the hospital shortly before 2 o'clock this afternoon indicated that there was little chance of recovery.

Complete details of the suicide attempt could not be had immediately but it was learned that Mr. Harris, experiencing ill health for several years, had talked in recent days about ending his life.

After three of his children had left for school this morning, he took his rifle, went to his bed room and placed the stock of the gun on the floor and fired the bullet into his ear. The rifle was found between his feet on the floor.

A native of Bear Grass Township and an able and respected farmer, Mr. Harris had made his home in the Spring Green community of Poplar Point Township for about seven years. He is 44 years old and other than his health, the condition of which had showed some improvement in recent months, was thought to be getting along very well.

Parents - Teachers To Meet Tomorrow

All parents are urged to be present at the high school auditorium tomorrow afternoon at 3:30 when the Williamston Parent-Teacher Association meets for the first time this school year. Mrs. B. W. Nash, president, is urging all patrons of the local schools to join teachers in association activities during the 1942-43 term.

Dr. W. R. Burrell will conduct the devotional. Principal D. N. Hix will discuss the redistribution of children made in the various grades at the beginning of school and comment upon other school problems.

A brief social period will be held in the home economics rooms at the close of the business session.