

Test Blackout Here Last Tuesday Night Declared A Success

Future Blackouts Will Be Ordered by Army and Without Any Warning

A state-wide test blackout last Tuesday night was declared a success, local civilian defense authorities adding that the organization here functioned almost perfectly and is believed ready for any event in so far as its facilities and equipment will permit. The warning signal, handled by blasts of the town's fire siren and mill whistles, was received at 9:15 o'clock that evening, the all-clear signal coming 45 minutes later.

Traffic halted immediately and individuals had their house and store lights out in less than a minute. Some delay was experienced in cutting off the street lights, the young man assigned that duty turning the switch the wrong way causing the lights to stay on longer than was expected. It was to perfect the handling of that and similar tasks that the trial blackout was held.

The warning signal in the entire district was given within one minute, the calls going to several county towns and to those in three nearby counties from the local office in record time.

Air raid wardens, rescue and first-aid squads took their posts at the control center in the town hall and immediately went into action. One or two lights were left burning by the owners but not intentionally, and as a whole the public cooperated perfectly in making the test almost perfect.

Air raid wardens are well trained in their tasks now, and the rescue and first-aid squads did well in their first practices.

Sam Zemon volunteered as a bombing victim, but before the rescue group could reach him under a pile of lumber at the Farmville-Woodward Lumber Company mill yard, a dog had chased him out and he was nursing his "injuries" from the top of a truck. Placed in an ambulance, made available by the Biggs Funeral Home, the victim was moved to the first-aid shelter where he was treated by Dr. E. T. Walker after receiving treatment on the spot by First-aid V. J. Spivey and his assistants. Val Teel, a second victim, suffering from shock and cold, was picked up at the graded school and brought in for treatment just about the time the all-clear signal was heard.

The fair management and operators cooperated with the blackout plans perfectly, the show owners stating that it was the eleventh test they had participated in during recent month in their travels along the Atlantic coast.

It is now fairly certain that all future blackouts will be ordered only by the Army and that they will come without advanced notice. Local people will do well to remember that the five blasts of the fire siren call for a blackout.

All Colored Schools Closed; Five Others On Short Schedules

Children Offering Material Aid in Harvesting Cotton and Peanuts

All colored schools closed this week and five white schools adopted limited class schedules that the children might help relieve the serious labor shortage existing on most of the farms in this county. About a dozen colored schools closed several weeks ago, and the closing order was extended to all the others when attendance figures started falling.

Apparently the half-day holiday schedule is proving effective in the Jamesville, Bear Grass, Hassell, Oak City and Hamilton school areas. Late reports from Jamesville state that the attendance figures are holding right close to 90 per cent that in the afternoons the principal and some few town children join their rural comrades and tackle farm duties. Principal P. B. Britton and a small group of boys handled about 40 stacks of peanuts on one assignment this week.

It is quite apparent that the little folks can lend material aid in relieving the farm labor problem, but as that problem is further aggravated it is also apparent that a greater uncertainty will surround the school operating schedules. It is possible that the current situation can be handled by closing the colored schools and holding a number of the white units to a half-day schedule, but next spring and fall are certain to offer an even more serious problem.

According to unofficial reports, attendance figures in some of those schools still operating on regular schedules are not very impressive.

It is understood that all the schools are expected to return to a normal operating schedule on Monday, October 12th. It is also understood that most, if not all of the schools will abandon the war-time schedule on or about that date and open thirty minutes to an hour later each morning.

Nazis Captured Near Stalingrad



Under guard of Soviet soldiers, a long line of Nazis are shown marching into captivity behind the fighting front. The men were captured in the bitter battles on the southern front around Stalingrad. The defenders of the besieged Russian city are now fighting in the streets on the outskirts and revealed their hard-pressed lines in hand-to-hand combat after Nazi troops had succeeded in establishing spearheads. (Central Press)

Extensive Drive For Scrap Iron In County

DELAYED

No certificates for the purchase of regular tires and tubes were issued in this county by the rationing board here yesterday, Member H. L. Roebuck explaining that the October quota had not been released and that no applications could be considered. While it is possible that no quota will be allowed this month, complete withdrawal of quotas is hardly likely.

Four obsolete tires were allotted yesterday to two farmers, Jesse Lee Hale, of RFD 1, Palmyra, and James David Roberson, of RFD 1, Williamston, getting two each.

The usual large number of applications for tires were received by the board for consideration.

Large Crowds Are Attending Annual Legion Fair Here

Grandstand Attraction and Farm Exhibits Main Features at Event Here

Attracted by improved farm and home exhibits and the special grandstand entertainment program, large crowds are attending the annual Martin County fair sponsored by the John Walton Hassell Post of the American Legion here this week.

After experiencing interruptions caused by a state-wide blackout last Tuesday night and unusually cold weather early in the week, the annual event was visited by large crowds Wednesday and yesterday, the attendance reaching a high point last night when the pageant, "America on Parade," was staged in front of the grandstand. The first performance Wednesday evening attracted only a small crowd, but those present were so impressed that not a single person moved during the presentation. Last night a far larger group witnessed the pageant and a still larger number is almost certain to see the show tonight.

The pageant is indeed timely and the first two showings greatly impressed the audiences. While the midway offers about the general run of amusements, and the kiddies apparently have enjoyed the rides, the fair is stressing the exhibits more this year than possibly at any other time in recent years. Hundreds of dollars are being paid out in premiums, and club prizes are going to several schools and home organizations in the county.

The fair will close its stand here tomorrow night. Instead of financing a fireworks program, the fair management is offering war bonds as prizes. Winners so far are Thomas Revels, Mrs. Jos. Godard, III, and Mrs. Chas. Davenport. Two bonds will be given away tonight.

FORCED LANDING

No one was injured and very little damage resulted when an Army airplane was forced to land in a soybean field on the Taylor farm, near Spring Green in this county late Tuesday afternoon.

Apparently losing his course and running short on gasoline, the pilot brought the heavily armed pursuit ship down in a belly landing. A small streak of beans was cleared.

Mechanics were dispatched to the scene that night and the plane is being moved over land to its base.

Scrap Is Not Over And Drive For Old Scrap Must Go On

All-out Clean Sweep Designed to Supplement Collections Already Underway

An all-out drive for scrap iron and metals, supplementing all other collection campaigns, is being launched in this county and throughout the State and nation this week. The drive is now on, and it must and it will round up the scrap, prodding those who have put off until tomorrow the task of moving old iron and metals to designated points or to dealers. It has been pointed out that the worldwide scrap is not yet over, that possibly it has hardly started, and that the drive for scrap must and will continue.

Centered around the schools in this county, the drive for the old scrap metals is expected to pull in a record amount of material between now and October 21. The drive is being supplemented in this county by prizes offered by the Martin County Farm Bureau, and by inducements offered by the schools.

According to County Salvage Chairman V. J. Spivey, children will deliver their collections to the schools where the materials will be picked up and placed in war channels. Individuals will deliver either direct to dealers within the county or to designated centers at the schools. Over three million pounds of scrap iron have moved out of this county since December 7th, but the surface has hardly been touched. It is possible to double that amount during the next few weeks. Some counties are already claiming a per capita collection of more than 200 pounds. Martin County can better that figure.

To spur the collection of scrap metal so vitally needed by the armed services, North Carolina newspapers have devised a contest through which they hope to enlist the effort of every Tar Heel. Participation in the contest affords every patriotic citizen an opportunity to serve his country and at the same time offers him

(Continued on page four)

Oak City Schools Plan Scrap Drive

At a called meeting of teachers in Oak City school Wednesday, September 30th, an organization was perfected for "Get in the Scrap" drive. Teachers named as captains and pupils will be appointed on the basis of responsibility and production as lieutenants, sergeants and corporals. All other children will be privates, eligible to promotion for performance of duty. Definitely designated roads have been assigned for pupils to canvass. Leroy Roberson has been appointed as lieutenant in the Junior Army, charged with the responsibility of receiving and weighing all scrap as it is brought to the school building and placed by the flag pole. The school is urging all patrons and community people to help in this drive and report any amount to the school in order that we may receive credit. Large amounts not delivered to school will be taken care of if you will send notice by your child to the school naming the place and the amount. This drive begins Monday, October 5th.

The Parent-Teacher Association of Oak City school will hold its first meeting Wednesday, October 7th at 8:00 p. m. in the school auditorium. All members and especially committee members as appointed last spring are urged to be present for the meeting. Special business and work projects are to be discussed.

UNCLE SAM
BATTLING TO UPHOLD
America's Freedom

THE 42ND WEEK OF THE WAR

Rubber Administrator Jeffers, acting on two important recommendations of the Baruch Rubber Committee, directed the Office of Defense Transportation to limit driving speeds to 35 miles an hour and told the Office of Price Administration to prepare to ration gasoline throughout the nation on the same basis that it is now rationed in the East.

The limitation on speed is now in effect for all vehicles except those operated by common carriers. Common carriers—trucks and buses operated on regular schedules over regular routes—will be given until October 15 to adjust their schedules to the new top speed. Enforcement of the new speed limit will be left up to the states for the present, ODT announced.

Nationwide gasoline rationing—designed to reduce mileage so as to save rubber rather than gasoline—will become effective about November 22. Price Administrator Henderson reported. By that time ration books will have been distributed to approximately 20 million motorists in the unrationed area. The present tire rationing program will be integrated with the new gasoline rationing program and tires on all cars will have to be submitted to OPA for "on-wheel inspection every 60 days to insure proper care."

The OPA said fuel oil consumers in the 30 rationed East and Mid-west states will have to get along this winter with one-third less oil than usual because the originally announced cut of one-fourth would not be sufficient.

On the basis of last winter, however—which was about 10 per cent warmer than usual—the cut will only be about 26 per cent, the office said. The quota of new adult bicycles for rationing in October was set at 88,000, compared with the September quota of 90,000.

The War Front

Gen. MacArthur's headquarters in Australia reported September 28th that U. S. Army flying fortresses hit and probably sank a 15,000-ton merchantman in an attack on the enemy base at Rabaul. It was the fourth straight day of attack by the fortresses on the biggest enemy base in the Australian zone. In the previous raids the bombers probably sank an 8,000-ton ship, and scored direct hits on three medium-sized ships. Australian forces supported by new artillery were reported driving the Japanese from their outposts in the Owen Stanley Mountains, 32 air miles from the Allied base of Port Moresby. Heavy rains complicated the Japanese supply problem.

The U. S. Marines in the Solomons, sometimes outnumbered 10 to 1 by the enemy, have beaten off all attacks and their positions remain secure, Marine headquarters in the

(Continued on page seven)

Building Addition To Peanut Factory

Recently completing its most successful season, the Williamston Peanut Company, is launching an enlargement program, plans now nearing completion, calling for a greatly increased plant output. New machinery has been installed and a fourth large storage house is now under construction. The building addition will handle more than 15,000 bags of farmers' stock peanuts, and it is estimated the milling capacity will be increased by approximately one-third. With a favorable operating season, the company, it is understood, plans to handle nearly one-third of a million bags of peanuts this coming season.

Machine repairs and new installations are being rushed to completion and the plant will be ready to start receiving the new crop within the next few weeks. One of the owners stated yesterday that there wasn't a single bag of farmers' stock peanuts in the entire plant, and that the few bags of shelled goods there now had been sold.

The new plant addition, made possible by a special government permit, is the first building construction reported in this immediate vicinity in several months.

COMMISSIONERS

With no extraordinary business scheduled, the Martin County commissioners are anticipating an uneventful meeting here next Monday. The authorities will draw thirty-six citizens for jury service during the week's special term of the superior court and will handle routine matters. Petitions, urging the commissioners to urge the State Highway and Public Works Commission to take over certain roads have been few and far between in recent months, and no such requests are anticipated next Monday.

Ration First Farm Machinery In Martin County Yesterday

The seriousness of material shortages is rapidly being brought home to the people of this section, the latest jolt coming in the form of farm machinery rationing. The first piece of farm machinery was rationed in this county yesterday, the special board composed of Messrs. Jesse Crisp, of Oak City; Reuben Everett, of Robersonville, and Mayo Hardison, of Williamston, granting a certificate to George David Grimes, Jr., of Robersonville, for the purchase of a model A tractor.

The application, the first submitted to the special rationing board, explained that the order for a tractor was placed some time ago, that delivery was frozen by an order issued the 17th of last month.

Applications are considered principally when replacements are needed. The applicant must also signify his willingness to exchange work, rent the equipment to others, and list reasons to support his claim to new machinery.

Second Period Liquor Sales Set New Record

Total Of \$961,483.90 Is Spent For Liquor Since Stores Opened

Legal liquor store sales reached an all-time high record for the second quarter when patrons, without being urged, spent \$53,607.45 for the fluid in this county during the months of April, May and June. The audit, just released even after the expiration of the third quarter, shows that sales in no other second quarter even approached the record established in the months under consideration.

Total sales, recorded as of June 30, this year, now stand at \$961,483.90, the amount being that spent since the stores opened in July, 1935 up to the end of the second quarter. It is understood that the third quarter sales will boost the total sales to a figure well in excess of one million dollars. Complete figures for an accurate comparison are not available, but conservative estimates clearly indicate that the people of Martin County are spending or actually throwing away more money for legal liquors, beers and wines than they are investing in war bonds. And the trend of the sales is upward. Only last Saturday, the store at Robersonville reported sales in the amount of \$1,299.05. Even while farmers declare their crops are ruining in the fields for the want of harvest hands, more help is needed in the liquor stores to supply the trade.

Liquor prices, it is pointed out, are slightly higher than they were a year ago, but the price increase is negligible compared with the gain in sales. Beer and wine sales added to the liquor sales, no doubt will boost the expenditure of cash for alcoholic beverages to a figure well in excess of \$100,000 for the months of April, May and June of this year.

A review of the sales shows the increase in sales to be general over the county with some of the stores nearly doubling their business in the second quarter of this year as compared with the sales for April, May and June of 1941. The second quarter figures for this year stand at \$53,607.45 compared with \$29,043.65 reported for the corresponding period last year. Profits increased, too, the audit showing that they are double those of the second quarter, 1941. Before the State got its greedy

Justice J.L. Hassell Hears Nine Cases

Local and county officers and Justice J. L. Hassell are maintaining an almost perfect balance in their business operations week after week. The officers fill up the jail about every week-end and two or three days later the trial justice about empties it. But the latter task is not handled until justice has been exactly meted out and to the great discomfort of the transgressors.

Conduct unbecoming the man who places any value at all on common decency was the most common charge aired in the trial justice's court this week following the round-up over the week-end. Walter Freeman, charged with disorderly conduct, aggravated the charge when he resisted arrest and Justice Hassell booked him for trial in the county court next Monday under bond in the sum of \$200.

Jeff Slade, J. P. Sykes, Alexander James, Ernest Sheppard and Henry Peel, all charged with disorderly conduct, were each fined \$5 and taxed with the costs.

Richard Razor, Vance Brooks and Ben Clemmons were also charged with disorderly conduct. They were sentenced to the roads for 30 days, the court suspending the road sentence upon payment of the costs of \$7.50 each.

Hitler Demands His Weary Soldiers To Capture Stalingrad

Ignoring Vast Cost and Great Human Sacrifices, Nazis Make New Gains

Receiving a direct demand from Adolf Hitler yesterday, German troops, estimated to number a million, made new but small gains in their drive on Stalingrad, ignoring the vast cost in equipment and shocking sacrifices in human life and limb. Likened unto a burning hell, the once great industrial city is little more than a mass of debris today, and other than a little prestige the invaders will gain little or nothing if and when they capture it.

Screened from view by clouds of smoke, the city is one big slaughter field, vast numbers of men, women and children being suffocated by smoke and trapped in the raging fires in addition to the ever-mounting loss of life among the military defenders and attackers.

Despite the tragic drive on the once-great city, the Russians are said to have scored again the "impossible." Back in August and with rail transportation blocked, aged men, women and children started moving the great Stalingrad tractor factory from the city and today it is running in a safe spot behind the Ural Mountains. Moved piece by piece, the machinery and even the walls of the buildings were loaded on Volga River barges, hauled to rail junctions and transported on the Trans-Siberian Railway to the new location.

A citizen's army, the salvation of Moscow and Leningrad and the last resort of fallen Rostov and Sevastopol, rose up in Stalingrad and it was revealed that American tanks also were in action there. (The dispatch did not reveal whether the tanks were American-made or only American-made. The German high command said 98 Soviet tanks, mostly of American and British makes, were destroyed in northwest Stalingrad Wednesday.)

The Russians were boring into the siege lines south of Stalingrad in an attempt to divert pressure from the northwestern suburbs. The Thursday night communique said the Germans were routed from another village of the southern sector. The Thursday noon communique said Russians recaptured one village in that area, and Red Star, the army organ, later reported three villages recaptured there.

German casualties piled up at an enormous rate. A semi-official Soviet dispatch said 25,000 Germans were slain and 400 of their tanks destroyed around Stalingrad in the last week, and the midnight communique reported 900 Germans killed in the northwestern part of Stalingrad, 400 south of the city, 100 in the Don river valley to the northwest, 200 in the Mozdok area of the Caucasus, 500 near Novorossisk, and 700 northwest of Moscow.

The Germans lost 11 tanks, in addition to 900 men, in one phase of

(Continued on page four)

Superior Court In Last Term Session Tuesday Afternoon

Few Cases Cleared from Civil Docket During Regular Court Term

The regular term of Martin County Superior court, convening on Monday of last week for the trial of both criminal and civil cases, came to an abrupt close late Tuesday afternoon after a comparatively few cases had been cleared from the docket and a goodly number of other actions had been continued. Judge Clawson Williams, presiding over the term, was notified earlier in the day that his brother was seriously ill in a Sanford hospital, and while he offered to stay for the trial of other cases it was found that most of the actions could be continued without inconvenience.

Proceedings in the court: A consent judgment was recorded in the case of Frances Parker Roberson and husband, John Henry Roberson, against Raleigh Perkins.

By mutual consent between the plaintiff, N. S. Mobley, and the defendant, S. A. Mobley, the court ordered eleven parcels or tracts of land sold for partition. The property, including the bus station in Williamston and ten other tracts, will be offered for sale to the highest bidder the latter part of October.

The case of Margaret Whitaker against D. M. Roberson was remanded to the clerk of the superior court for further proceedings. The plaintiff, through her next friend, J. J. Whitaker, had turned to the courts in an effort to collect a judgment granted her previously in the court.

In the case of Dixie Motors, Incorporated, against H. W. Barber, a judgment in the sum of \$265.27 with interest from April 4, 1942, was granted the plaintiff.

HIGHER

Continuing a gradual but steady climb upward, tobacco prices reached a new high peak on the local tobacco market today. The increase was quite noticeable for the common and inferior grades, the prices jumping right up into the forty-cent classifications.

Total sales, including the offerings today, are right at the six million-pound mark, and it is fairly certain that the poundage will reach and possibly exceed seven million pounds before the season is ended.

September Issuance Marriage Licenses Is Smallest In Months

Only 12 Marriages Reported in This County During Past Month

The September issuance of marriage licenses in this county was the smallest for any month since July, 1940, and equaled the issuances in January, this year, and the one in July of last year. There was a marked drop in the number of licenses sold to white couples, but marriages among the colored population were two greater than they were in the preceding month.

The removal of young men to the armed services and to defense jobs in other areas apparently is making itself felt in Dan Cupid's work in this county.

Marriage licenses were issued by Register of Deeds J. Sam Getsinger in this county last month to five white and seven colored couples, as follows:

White
Rupert Turner and Blannice Mae Bunting, both of Palmyra.
Ralph Elliott Taylor, of Williamston, and Mary Virginia Daniel, of Everetts.

James Garland Rogers, of Williamston, and Mildred Peele, of Robersonville.

Alton Rudolph Hollis and Otis Ward Forbes, both of Robersonville.

Russell W. Corey and Carrie Dell Gardner, both of Jamesville.

Colored
Frank Williams, of Hamilton, and Martha Adams, of Oak City.
John Edwards and Sophrona Coffield, both of Williamston.

George Ernest Lynch and Pattie Walters, both of Oak City.
Vance Brooks, Jr., and Arbell Godard, both of RFD 1, Williamston.

John S. Mason, of Raleigh, and Maggie H. Speller, of Williamston.
Melvin Biggs and Lucretia Brooks, both of Darlens.

Grady Biggs and Irene James, both of Jamesville.