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Well-known County Farmer Dies in Local Hospital Saturday

Funeral Services Are Held for Lester Peel at Home Monday Afternoon

Funeral services were held at the home in Cross Roads Township yesterday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock for Lester Peel, well-known county farmer, who died in the local hospital last Saturday evening at 8 o'clock.

The son of Mr. Henry D. Peel and the late Ida Harris Peel, he was born in Cross Roads Township 45 years ago, the 27th of last October. He was an only child and never married, choosing to hold tight the ties that made for a happy family unit.

During an extremely hot day the early part of last June, he discovered while serving as a substitute mail carrier that his eyesight was failing. He immediately had an examination and a few days later he underwent a major operation in a Durham hospital.

Burial was in the family plot in the Williamston cemetery following the services at the home yesterday afternoon.

Large Crowd Sees Christmas Pageant

An appreciative audience, overflowing the high school auditorium, witnessed the annual presentation of the Christmas Pageant here last Sunday evening.

Misses Grace Talton and Katherine Bradley at the two pianos rendered the accompaniment for the carols. Others cooperating with Miss Mewborn in the presentation included: Misses Baker and Reynolds, and Mrs. Manning, the large window;

This year's presentation was the third of the annual pageants presented by the music groups of the local schools.

Most List-Takers Named In County

Eight of the ten county tax list-takers have been named or renamed, Tax Supervisor C. D. Carstarphen said yesterday. Appointments in the two remaining districts, Williams and Jamesville, are pending.

Ask Homes for British Service Men Here During Christmas

On the high seas for more than two years, doing much heavy fighting during that time, a number of British service men are facing an enforced stay in over-crowded Norfolk during the holiday season. In a direct appeal, frankly stated, a voluntary committee in Norfolk is seeking homes for possibly forty of these men in Williamston during the period from December 23 to January 4th.

Homes have been opened to the men in Norfolk and throughout a greater part of Virginia, and in some few instances Britishers have been entertained in eastern Carolina homes, but so far few have been received into homes in this immediate area for any length of time.

"A voluntary committee, of which I am a member," writes Julia Davis, of Norfolk, to Mrs. Louie P. Martin

here, "is frankly begging hospitality for the men. They have been away from highland for two years, and have been in heavy fighting most of the time. Until we began sending them to different homes in Virginia for their leave, they had not even been in a home in all that time. These men—boys, most of them—had been under a terrible nervous strain, and showed it, and their trips to the country did wonders for those that were able to go."

It is earnestly believed that the committee will not find it necessary to "beg" hospitality for those boys in Williamston and other homes in the county. Any one interesting in enriching his own holiday season and that of one or more of the young men is asked to contact Mrs. Martin in Williamston immediately.

READY

Between 1,500 and 2,000 fuel oil rations for central heating plants and space heaters and a few other uses such as curing barns and brooders will be ready for distribution beginning tomorrow morning from the office of the rationing board in the county agricultural building in Williamston.

Preliminary reports on the fuel oil rationing program point to a marked shift to wood- and coal-burning stoves. The allotments are considerably below the actual needs stated in the applications. It is indeed apparent that designated temperatures cannot be maintained in many cases with the allotments.

Mrs. W. C. Whitley Passes At Home in County on Sunday

Funeral Services for Respectful Griffins Township Citizen Held Yesterday

Mrs. Mary Hardison Whitley, highly esteemed citizen of the Farm Life community in Griffins Township, died at her home there Sunday morning at 8:50 o'clock, following an illness of four months' duration.

The daughter of the late Seth R. and Louisa Griffin Hardison, Mrs. Whitley was born in the Farm Life community 73 years ago the fifth of last July. Spending her entire life there, she lived a beautiful life, sharing the joys and sorrows of her neighbors and other friends, and finding time always to minister unto the needs of others.

Besides her husband, she leaves four children, three daughters, Mrs. S. C. Griffin, of Williamston; Mrs. Herbert L. Manning, and Mrs. N. S. Roberson, and a son, A. Tommie Whitley, all of the home community. She also leaves one sister, Mrs. J. J. Roberson, of R.F.D. 1, Jamesville; and four brothers, Luther Hardison, of Williamston; Sam Hardison, of Raleigh; Henry Hardison, of Tarboro, and John A. Hardison, of the community.

Oak City Has Part In War Bond Sales

Without fan-fare or a lot of hullabaloo, Oak City people went earnestly about their bond-buying business last month to record sales in the sum of \$4,225, according to a report submitted by Mrs. Nat Johnson to Mrs. Paul D. Roberson, chairman of Women's War Week in Martin County.

It has been pointed out that the people of that section are numbered among those who are buying stamps and bonds regularly. Their purchases are, as a usual thing, reflected in those reported by the banks either in Williamston or Robersonville.

The town of Oak City just recently rounded up its surplus cash or at least a part of it, and invested it in a \$1,000 in bonds.

Judge R. D. Dixon In Timely Charge To the Grand Jury

Asks If All Are Honest in Their Dealing with Rationing Regulations

After reviewing their duties and instructing them to investigate conditions and make necessary recommendations for a better Martin County, Judge Richard D. Dixon, of Edenton, presiding over the regular term of the superior court, offered much timely thought about rationing in his address to the grand jury-men here yesterday morning.

Just a year ago the Japs unleashed their sneak attack upon our naval base of Pearl Harbor, while their representatives were at the same moment in Washington talking peace. Immediately we became involved in a world-wide war, stretching our battle lines completely around the world and requiring untold thousands of tons of tanks and planes and guns and military supplies of every kind to follow these battle lines.

"To keep those boys in that bomber 25,000 feet above the earth; to keep those gobs fully clothed and fed out there in that icy North Atlantic Patrol; to keep those Marines on Guadalcanal fully supplied, not only to protect them from the Japs, but also from the deadly diseases of those jungles; to protect our brave troops on the arid sands of the African desert we here safely at home are called upon to deny ourselves a few of the accustomed luxuries of the American way of living.

"I like to think that we here in North Carolina, as well as all over this nation, willingly, cheerfully and gladly are doing without in order that no service man be imperiled or be in want of the things he needs to fight this war for us; I believe that most of us are cooperating 100 per cent with the Government in obeying these regulations. But still we are hearing some tales of 'fudging' on the part of some; you remember how we as boys treated the fellow who 'fudged' in a game of marbles; how he was held in contempt and was run

Kerosene Coupons Are Distributed

No official reports are to be had as yet, but it is estimated that 80 per cent of the kerosene ration coupons were distributed to consumers in this county last Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. In the local schools the ration will run possibly in excess of that percentage, Principal D. N. Hix estimating that hardly more than 250 or 300 of the approximately 2,000 ration units were placed in the hands of the applicants. All of the coupons left undistributed were not returned to the rationing board immediately and some of those who did not call for them at the schools were unable to get them here yesterday. The coupons will be ready at the main office shortly.

There was little trouble in registering 5,000 persons for liquor, but when it comes to necessities, the applicants just don't seem to understand the plan for rationing.

As the coupons found their way into the hands of the owners, retailers stated that they were having little or no trouble in collecting the tickets promised weeks ago in exchange for oil.

War As It Relates To Home Front Is Reviewed for Week

United Nations' Production Is Now Twice That of The Axis Powers

The United Nations, it is estimated now are producing twice as much combat armament as the Axis, and by the end of next year it is expected that the United States, alone, will produce almost as great a volume of fighting weapons as all the rest of the world combined. In order to attain that vast output of war goods, civilian goods and services must be cut to a bare minimum.

But at the same time our total national income has steadily been rising, until it has reached a level of about 115 billion dollars a year, even with taxes taken out. Which means that for every \$1.15 that we have to spend, there will be only about 75 cents worth of goods or services to spend it on.

Part of our 40 billion dollar surplus buying power will be drained off by additional taxes, while voluntary restrictions in buying and voluntary savings also will help check the rise in living costs caused by competition to buy scarce goods. If, however, we want to make our stocks of scarce goods go as far as possible—and we do—if we want to make sure they're evenly distributed, then we must rely on rationing. We must rely on both the coupon rationing with which we are now familiar, and the new system of "point" rationing which will start after the first of the year.

Point-Rationing Is Needed The present coupon "unit system" is well adapted to rationing such products as sugar and coffee, which can be divided up on a simple per capita basis, but it cannot well be used for rationing diversified food-stuffs, since tastes vary quite as much as do supplies, and not all persons want the same items in their daily diet. By giving a higher point value to scarce commodities and lower points to those that are plentiful, the consumer having a total number of points to "spend" for a particular group of products during a given ration period is free to "pay out" more of his points for scarce items, or to consume larger amounts of low-point, abundant foods that may be substituted for the scarce ones.

Whatever the details of the measures used in controlling prices, it is inevitable that everyone concerned with handling merchandise, from raw materials to finished products, must keep records and engage in bookkeeping to an extent that would not be necessary under peacetime conditions. For price control, to be effective, must be based on accurate figures. Since last April, when the General Maximum Price Regulation went into effect, retail stores

Big Cotton Vote Is Cast In County

Rallying behind a planned program for agriculture, Martin County farmers turned out in far greater numbers than was expected last Saturday to cast an overwhelming vote for cotton quotas for another season. The opposition scored only two votes in the entire county, while the proponents piled up a vote twice as large as was expected. The official count was 1,180 for quotas and 2 against.

Townships	For	Against
Jamesville	22	0
Bear Grass	33	0
*Williamston	288	1
Cross Roads	118	0
Robersonville	313	0
Hamilton	159	0
Goose Nest	247	1
	1180	2

*—Represents vote cast by farmers in Williams, Griffins, Poplar Point and Williamston Townships at the agricultural building. The State gave the program a big majority, but a complete report from the cotton belt, as a whole, has not yet been officially announced.

ROUND-UP

Local and county officers worked over time rounding up the drunks last week-end. A new record in numbers was established during the period when eighteen persons were arrested and jailed, seventeen for alleged drunkenness and one for alleged liquor rationing rules and regulations, will lose their liquor ration books. Four out of the eighteen arrested and jailed were white, and two of them were mean drunk. Jailer Roy Peel stating that they wrecked part of the water works system in the jail. The ages of those jailed ranged from 26 to 62 years.

Rule Out Deferments For Draft Registrants

Board Has Limited Lee-way In Making Classifications Now

First 18- and 19-Year-Olds Are Classified by Board In Recent Meeting

With deferments virtually ruled out and with provisions assured for most dependents, the draft board has comparatively little authority now in determining classifications for draft registrants, according to a report coming from the board chairman, R. H. Goodmon, following a meeting of the group here last Friday night.

Many claims for deferments or lower classifications have been virtually ruled out, and it is apparent under new draft law regulations that few farmers in Martin County or in this entire section can qualify for 2-C or 3-C classifications. A single man with a dependent under ordinary circumstances can well anticipate a 1-A rating now. In those cases provisions have been made for dependents. The farmer, claiming deferment on the grounds that he is producing essential foods, must show that he is doing next to the impossible. In very few cases can a farmer under the agricultural set-up in this part of the country qualify under the new regulations. He must show first that he has more than a subsistence farm; that he is producing essential crops in almost impossible amounts. Briefly stated, lower classifications are virtually closed to farmers in this county and section. However, it may be possible for farmers to claim deferments after they have actually planted their crops.

At its recent meeting, the draft board, working until after midnight, established the first classification for 18- and 19-year-olds. Not a single deferment was granted, and none could be granted. Classifications were established in every single case placed before the board except one, and in that case classification is pending.

Earlier in the week when the board worked under tentative regulations, several registrants were classified in the "C" group. The later regulations made it necessary to change those classifications and the men are now in 3-B. There is little difference in the ratings. A registrant in 3-C is virtually certain he'll never be called for active military duty while the 3-B registrant is subject to call only after all the A groups are exhausted.

After a careful study of the facts at hand, the board last week placed twelve of the remaining 28 cases coming out of the first registrations in 1-A. One lone man was placed in a "C" classification, and he is a farmer in Chowan County who is the sole worker on a farm meeting the agricultural deferment requirements. In some cases where the registrants asked lower classifications, the farms are producing more than the required food and feed crops necessary to support the claim, but when broken down, the production schedule did not measure up to the new requirements.

The following classifications were announced in the old registration groups: Claude LeRoy Nelson, Jr., w, RFD 1, Oak City, 3-A; Archie Edwin Harrison, w, RFD 1, Jamesville, 3-A; James Roy Manning, w, Oak City, 2-B; Willard Josh Hux, w, RFD 1, Oak City, 3-A.

Robert S. Hodges Passes In County

Robert S. Hodges, well-known character and favorably known as "Skeeter," died in the county home near here last Saturday morning at 9:30 o'clock following an illness of several years' duration. He had been a patient sufferer of cancer for about four years, but despite his condition he seemed to get much out of life until a short time before the end. He underwent an operation on his throat several years ago, and breathed through a tube in his throat.

Ready to accept life as he found it, Mr. Hodges seldom complained. He was a friend to everyone. The son of the late James R. and Martha Jabe Lilley Hodges, he was born in Griffins Township on September 7, 1885. He never married and lived in several communities in the county, spending much of his time in Bear Grass until a few years ago when his health failed and he entered the home. He farmed and handled odd jobs, spending many of his latter days filing saws at which task he was an expert. Funeral services were conducted Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock by Elder B. S. Cowin, interment following in the Bowen cemetery, near Williamston. He is survived by one brother and a sister.

PENNIES

Wiping out many luxuries and eliminating a few of the "essentials," scarcity is now surrounding the lowly penny. Announcing an acute shortage, State Commissioner of Banks Gurney P. Hood this week called on the local banks to gather up 100,000 of the coppers and make them available to the Federal Reserve Bank as soon as possible. To meet the demand and continue an ample number in circulation in this area, Bankers D. V. Clayton and Herman Bowen are calling upon everyone to turn in surplus pennies. Open up the house savings banks and empty the stockings and little boxes of pennies and place them in circulation. There is also a great demand for nickels.

Nazis Rush Troops From El Agheila To The Tunisian Front

Allies Make Telling Gains in New Guinea with Capture Of Base at Buna

Withdrawing from El Agheila without offering a pitched fight and apparently making ready to desert Tripoli without a struggle, German forces today are rushing toward Tunisia where a big fight is now believed imminent. The retreat of the Afrika Korps is not a peaceful one for General Rommel's men, late reports stating that the German movement is undergoing one of the worst beatings in history from the air. It is apparent that the army, its size disclosed, will be greatly weakened before it reaches the German foothold in Tunisia.

While Rommel, announced to be in Bizerte now, brings in his men from Libya, fighting on a large scale is already underway in northern Tunisia. Reports on the battles there are quite meager, offering little detailed information as to the trend of the fight.

Axis air activity was totally ineffective in preventing air attacks on the fleeing Germans. Approximately 300 Allied planes including 100 American-manned aircraft were reported smashing the enemy's columns along the coastal road on the Gulf of Sirte.

Not a single Axis plane was sighted in that area Sunday. The Ninth U. S. Air Force headquarters announcement bore out this lack of Axis aerial activity. Only once did enemy fighters close with American pilots in an attempt to stop the Allied onslaught, the communiqué said. That was when two Messerschmitt 109's were shot down and several others damaged against the loss of one American fighter.

First Lieut. John T. Gilbertson, of Denver, and Second Lieut. Thomas T. Williams, of Memphis, each were credited with confirmed victories in the African sky push.

The American airmen scored many direct hits on Axis motor transport, the announcement said. Their fighter craft have been equipped with bomb racks in the manner of Britain's dual purpose "Hurricane" fighters. The cryptic battle reports gave no hint of the actual extent of the fighting. The Berlin radio said Rommel had "withdrawn his forces from the El Agheila position further westward" but official German and Italian communiques mentioned only patrol activity and lively artillery exchanges.

Behind the Rommel retreat and the fighting in Tunisia is a terrible struggle to get supplies to the fighting fronts. In this Germany holds the advantage, but the Allies are operating on a more extensive scale, and all indications point to major developments in that area.

In the Pacific area little activity has been reported on Guadalcanal.

County Furnishing Number Of Pilots

No official count is available, but it is known that at least eight Martin County young men are now full-fledged pilots in the Army Air Corps, and that a good crop is in the making both for the Army and Navy.

Two more youths, Hugh Fagan Jordan and Wiley E. Dunn, Jr., just received their wings last week-end. Jordan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jordan, of Dardens, was graduated at Spence Field, Moultrie, Ga., last Friday. Dunn, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Dunn, of Williamston, was graduated during the week-end at Brooks Field, Texas. Young Jordan is returning to West Point to complete his studies and graduate from the academy next month.

Court Ends Regular One Week Term in a Single Day Monday

Little Interest Shown in the Session and Small Crowds Heard Proceedings

Opening a one-week term of the Martin County Superior Court here yesterday morning, Judge R. D. Dixon, of Edenton, worked until well into the evening clearing the criminal docket. The long hours made it possible to discharge the jury for the term and declare the term virtually at an end. A few civil matters are before the tribunal today, but the average person visiting the courthouse by chance would never know the court is still holding forth. Little interest has been shown in the session, and small crowds were present for the proceedings. The grand jury finished its work and left by late afternoon.

Several cases, repeated time and again on the docket for nearly two years, were cleared when the court not crossed them with liberty to recall them at any time. Among those that were removed from the docket in that way are the following: Roosevelt Fagan, larceny and receiving; Henry Ellison, drunken driving; Harry Davis, aiding and abetting in forgery and false pretense.

Charged with larceny and receiving, Jasper Peterson was released when the court directed a verdict of not guilty. S. T. Hunter, charged with forgery, was sentenced to the roads for nine months.

Charged with breaking and entering, Walter Chamblee pleaded guilty of attempting to break into a home, and was sentenced to the roads for two years. Charged with drunken and reckless driving, Turner Hines and Clinton Smith pleaded not guilty, and entered a plea of nolo contendere as to hit-and-run driving. Each defendant was sentenced to the roads for a term of two years, the court suspending the sentence upon the payment of \$410 hospital bills. The amount is to be paid at the rate of \$20 each week.

Charged with aiding and abetting larceny, Chester Terry failed to appear when called and his \$75 bond was forfeited.

Big Crowd Present For Defense Meet

The importance of civilian defense on the home front was stressed in a public meeting held in the Bear Grass school auditorium last Friday evening when arm bands were presented to faithful post observers and defense leaders, including representatives from the Army addressed the gathering.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Elder A. B. Ayers. Senator Hugh Horton made a short talk in which he impressed on those present the intense need for civilian defense. Then followed a series of pictures showing how the ground defense system works. Following the pictures, Corporal Levinsky, of Norfolk, further explained the system and commended the people of Bear Grass community upon their splendid work and cooperation. He said that Martin County as a whole was one of the best counties in this work. Then Mr. T. O. Hickman, chief observer for this post, called the observers who had earned arm bands. J. Paul Simpson, district civilian director, assisted by Sergeant Prevouti, of Norfolk, presented arm bands and pins to those of this community who had served 25 hours or more at the observation post and were still serving. Approximately 30 people were given these bands and pins. Mr. T. O. Hickman then thanked these people and urged others to volunteer their services. A collection was taken up to finish paying for the new observation post which has recently been erected and the necessary equipment, also the siren and the shed which holds the fire equipment. The meeting closed with the audience singing "America."

The names of the observers who had served as many as 25 hours and are serving on an average of eight hours a month and who were awarded arm bands are as follows: Mrs. T. O. Hickman, Ralph Mobley, Haywood Rogers, Russell Rogers, John Ashley Hardison, A. B. Ayers, Noah Rogerson, Leslie Terry, Irvin Terry, Mrs. Irvin Terry, LeRoy Harrison.

Coffee Retailers To Submit Inventories

On or before December 31, coffee retailers and wholesalers in this county are to prepare and submit a complete inventory of their coffee stocks. Inventory forms are available at the county rationing board office in the agricultural building. The early preparation of the inventory reports will relieve a last-minute rush both for the dealer and the rationing board. The inventory list, while a bit long—it covers about two pages—is not very complicated.