



THE ENTERPRISE



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ESTABLISHED 1899

Martin County Youth Loses Life In Service

Details Of Roland Moore's Death Are Awaited By Father

Body Recovered and Temporary Interment Necessary, Message Reads

Interrupted every now and then by cars speeding by at rapid speeds, a grief stricken father at his home on the Everetts Highway last night related the terse message informing him of the death of his son, Private First Class Roland Moore of the United States Marine Corps. No details were offered in the message received this week and the father, Mr. Whit Moore, could not guess how or where the 20-year-old lad had made the supreme sacrifice in the service of his country.

The message, signed by T. Holcomb, Lieutenant General, United States Marine Corps, reads as follows:

"Deeply regret to inform you that your son, Pfc. Roland Moore, U. S. Marine Corps, drowned. Body recovered. To prevent possible aid to our enemies, please do not divulge name of his ship or station. Present situation necessitates interment temporarily in the locality where death occurred. You will be notified accordingly. Please accept my heartfelt sympathy. Letter follows."

Finishing a hard day's work on the farm, Mr. Moore had few other thoughts in his mind as he sat empty-handed in the corner of his softly lamp-lit room on the highway between here and Everetts last evening.

The message had been received the day before, and the father, choking back his grief, tried to read into it a ray of hope or figure out how and where his son lost his life.

The last direct word received from the boy was carried in a letter written on January 23 and mailed on the west coast. While it is possible that he lost his life in the Pacific, some think that he was transferred to the east coast and may have went down.

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Officers Pick Up Wandering Youths

Wandering south from their homes in Connecticut and Norfolk, five teen-age boys were detained in the county this week after two of the lads became a bit desperate and branched off on a crime trail.

Robert San Suser, of Waterbury, Conn., and James Mallahan, of Torrington, Conn., were found asleep in Farmer Lester Whitfield's car early last Monday morning near Robersonville. They had stolen a car in Washington the day before and ditched it near Robersonville. Carried back to Washington the juvenile judge when the car owner balked in prosecuting the case against them. The 15-year-old lads were bundled up and returned to their homes.

Leaving their homes in Norfolk Tuesday morning, Stewart Williams, 13, of 2821 Ballentine Boulevard; Herbert Beach, 14, of 605 May Ave., and Morris Teeks, 14, of 3320 Fairmont Park, Norfolk, were picked up on East Main Street here Wednesday shortly before noon by Patrolman W. E. Saunders and Sheriff C. B. Roebuck. They had spent the night under a bridge near Edenton, but were none the worse for the wear and tear on the short trip. The boys had a few dollars and they planned to travel as far south as they could, expecting all the while that when the going became too tough they would be picked up and returned home. Dr. and Mrs. S. A. Williams were notified and they came for the lads Wednesday afternoon.

To Advertise Delinquent Tax Accounts In County On May 1

Instructed by the county commissioners to advertise all delinquent tax accounts on May 1 for sale on the first Monday in June, Tax Collector M. Luther Peel is mailing statements to the property owners this week. Between 1,500 and 2,000 accounts out of a total of approximately 8,000 are unpaid at this time, the collector estimating that the number will be reduced to less than 500 during the remainder of this month and in April. It is also estimated that the unpaid taxes will be less than \$15,000 by advertising time in May.

Tax collections in the county at the present time are further advanced this year than in many years, and it is generally believed that the advertising list will carry few more names in May than are ordinarily carried in the month of October.

MISSING



Other than a brief message received the early part of this month and stating that he was missing in action, no late word about Marin Melvin Whitfield, above, has come to relatives here, it was learned today. The young man, son of Mrs. Pearl Whitfield, of Gold Point, is believed to have been lost or taken prisoner about the time that Marshal Rommel drove a wedge into American lines at Fald Pass in Tunisia about the 14th of last month.

Soldier Takes Over Where Italians Left Off In North Africa

Martin Man Is Enjoying Comforts in Embassy Deserted by Mussolini's Crowd

O. S. Winborne, local man, is apparently enjoying the comforts ordinarily made available to the diplomatics, a letter from him in North Africa stating that his outfit had taken over the Italian embassy in Casablanca. He writes under fairly recent date:

"I am in the same place where the President visited, but I did not see him. We reached here on November 20 and I am still in the same place. This is the largest seaport in Africa, and is larger than Norfolk. The waterfront was damaged plenty and many enemy ships are still in the harbor with nothing but their smokestacks sticking out of the water. Our boys surely did a good job in three days, and we followed them in four days later. Arabs and French helped to unload our 54 ships and we had no trouble at all. We had on U. S. flag arm bands, and the French ladies gave us take and wine at their gates, and told us that they had been waiting two years for us. French sailors and soldiers made friends with us and wanted to kiss us for coming to help them. They were forced to fight by the enemy. I can't speak French, but I sure could eat that cake.

"I rode a bicycle to an airport to see John Bland, Tommie's brother, a few days ago. He was well and all

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Youth Commissioned In The U. S. Marine Corps

Billy Watts, local young man, has been promoted from sergeant to the rank of lieutenant in the U. S. Marines, his father, Mr. W. B. Watts, was notified in a letter received here this week.

Enlisting in the Marine Corps, Lieutenant Watts was stationed on Guadalcanal at one time, or during the thick of the big fight on that Pacific island.

Large Demand Made For Poultry Fencing And Farm Machines

Classification Work Brought Down to Farmers and Farmers

Going before the County Farm Machinery Rationing Board a few days ago, Martin County farmers made large demands for wire fencing and plows and machines. While some of the demands can hardly be met, the demand for equipment clearly indicates that Martin farmers are making plans for an all-out production on the agricultural front this year.

Wire, plows and machines were rationed recently to the following:

- D. G. Matthews, tractor cultivator and planter.
- E. H. Harrell, 3 rolls fence wire.
- Kneezzer Harrison, 2 rolls fence wire.
- S. G. Burnett, 2 horse disc.
- John James, 1 tractor.
- Howard Hopkins and Hausley Hardison, 1 disc harrow.
- Daniel Bros., 1 row planter.
- James Leathers, 1 row planter.
- W. M. Davis, 10 rolls fence wire.
- T. W. Holliday, 2 rolls barbed wire.
- R. A. Edmondson, Sr., 2 rolls poultry netting.

- W. A. White, 20 rolls poultry wire.
- Lizzie Ruffin, 1 roll poultry wire.
- Foy Rogerson, 1 roll poultry netting.
- Frances Williams, 1 roll poultry netting.
- Russell N. Turner, 4 rolls fence wire.

- J. R. Daniel, 1 roll netting.
- David Bowen, Jr., 4 rolls garden wire.
- Adron Hardison, 1 roll fence wire.
- D. L. Roberson, 3 rolls wire.
- James C. Johnson, Tiller.
- A. P. Hyman, 3 rolls barbed wire.
- H. H. Williams, 3 rolls barbed wire.
- R. C. Coltrain, 2 rolls barbed wire.
- Eddie Jones, 2 rolls barbed wire.
- C. C. Martin, 2 rolls barbed wire.
- J. B. Harrington, 4 rolls wire fence.
- Herbert L. Roebuck, 4 rolls wire, 420 yards fence wire.
- Warren Waters, 2 rolls wire.
- W. D. Gurganus, 2 rolls barbed wire.
- J. M. Dixon, 4 rolls wire.
- Amos Spruill, 1 roll wire.
- Robert Jones, 1 roll wire.
- R. S. Brown, Jr., 1 roll wire.
- T. K. Slade, 2 rolls wire.
- Watson N. Sherrod, 4 rolls barbed wire.

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Hill Top Inn Badly Damaged Yesterday Afternoon By Fire

Roof and Greater Part of Second Story of 13-Room Structure Burned

Its origin unknown, fire burned away the roof and a greater part of the second story of the 13-room Hill Top Inn on West Main Street here late yesterday afternoon. Most of the furnishings in the upstairs apartments were also burned, Fire Chief G. P. Hall estimating the total loss at about \$4,500.

Believed to have started in the apartment of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Hodges, the fire had gained much headway before tenants in another part of the house discovered it. Some delay was experienced in getting in the alarm, it was said, and by the time the volunteer fire company reached there the entire roof was a solid blanket of fire. One line of hose was carried inside the house and to the second story, but the firemen were forced out by smoke. Two other lines of hose were hooked to the pumper, but a four-inch water line in that block was not sufficient to take care of the needs, and firemen were forced to disconnect one line and move it a block away. While the fire did not eat its way through the weatherboarding to any great extent on the second story, it just about destroyed the standing timbers and all the furnishings down to the upstairs floor. Firemen worked on the building for almost two hours.

Volunteers, aided by spectators, used every foot of hose on the truck in fighting the fire, and traffic was blocked on the main street for a long while.

It was learned that the Hodges apartment had been locked since the tenants left two days before and no one else had entered there. It is possible that the fire started from a spark falling from one of the chimneys to the roof.

Most of the furniture on the first floor was moved out of the building, but fire and water virtually wrecked everything on the second floor.

The owner, Mrs. W. T. Stinette estimates the damage to the home will approximate \$4,000 and that the furniture will run possibly over \$1,000. The home, housing four apartments and spare rooms, was valued at \$8,000 with \$4,000 insurance in effect. The furniture was valued at \$2,500 with \$2,000 insurance in force.

The fire was another in a series of costly ones reported here so far this year.

LOADING SUPPLIES AT BRITISH AFRICA BASE



NATIVE LABORERS HELP LOAD LORRIES with water drums that were landed by the Royal Navy at a British supply base in North Africa. Smoke rising in the background is the result of a raid by Axis planes, which occurred just before this photo was taken. No trucks were lost. Work goes on as usual. (International)

Board Issues a Small Number of Car and Truck Tires Monday

No Grade III Tires Available, But Supply Is Expected In Very Short Time

A comparatively small number of tires was rationed by the board in this county this week, many motorists, needing tires, withholding their applications because tires are not available in certain grades. Dealers state that no Grade III tires are to be had at the present time, but orders have been placed and shipments are expected within a very short time. A few Grade II, or what are known as war tires, are available in some places, but the stocks are said to be small.

New automobile tires and tubes were rationed to the following:

- H. L. Roberson, Robersonville, two tires and two tubes for servicing hatchery.
- Woolard Furniture Co., Williamston, two tubes.
- Lilley's Laundry, Williamston, four tires.
- W. T. Ross, RFD 3, Williamston, one tube for farm.
- King Riddick, RFD 1, Williamston, one tube.
- Oscar Ayers, RFD 3, Williamston, one tube.
- New truck tires and tubes were allotted to the following:
- U. S. Hassell, Jamesville, one tube.
- Timon C. Coltrain, Williamston, one tube.
- Justus B. Coltrain, RFD 1, Jamesville, two tires and one tube for farm.
- John W. Eubanks, Hassell, one tire and one tube.
- Grade II tires were issued, as follows:
- Fred F. Pollard, Bethel, one tire and tube.
- Russell D. Smith, Williamston, three tires and two tubes for defense worker.
- N. T. Tice, RFD 1, Williamston, two tires.
- Herbert Sexton, Jamesville, one tire for farm.
- Grade 3 tires and new tubes were allotted to the following:
- Hassell H. Worsley, Oak City, four tires and two tubes.
- Mrs. Whit Moore, RFD 3, Williamston, three tires.
- W. F. Coltrain, RFD 1, Williamston, two tires for farm.
- W. H. Britton, RFD 3, Williamston.

UNATTENDED

While it came as a marked surprise, the test blackout last night, the second one within a week, did not catch civilian defense forces napping. The test was declared a success in this district with the exception of a few cases where lights were left burning in locked homes unattended. Nine such cases were reported, and as a result a final warning is being issued by civilian defense authorities.

Prosecution in the courts is to be expected in the future where one leaves a light unattended during a blackout. Reports reaching here from some towns state that similar violations have drawn \$50 fines. If one must leave a light burning when away from home, he should consult with his air raid warden.

The meaning of the signals are apparently well understood, and local people cooperated splendidly during the test.

Few Changes Made In Property Tax Listings

TWO-WAR VET

Given an honorable discharge last Saturday, Mayo Peel, Martin County man, boarded a bus in Texas and headed for home, a veteran of two wars. He reached home Wednesday night, his discharge having been granted on account of his age.

The two-war veteran was drafted the latter part of last year and spent most of his time in the Army at Fort Bliss, Texas.

As far as it can be learned, Mr. Peel is the only Martin County man to have served in the first World's War and to have been drafted for the second.

Colored Residents Give Able Support To Red Cross Fund

Total for the Martin County Chapter \$1000 in Excess Of \$3,900 Goal

Exceeding their quota—\$400—by a larger percentage than any other group, the colored citizens in the Martin County Chapter ably supported the Red Cross War Fund drive now about complete. Commenting on the drive among the colored population in the Piney Woods and Bethlehem communities, Principal C. D. Wooten said, "Never before have I experienced in any undertaking a more enthusiastic spirit and a more hearty cooperation than that shown by the contributors to the all-out Red Cross drive." Most of the contributions made by colored citizens of the chapter are publicly acknowledged today, but it was next to impossible to get them all in at one time. The others along with a few late contributions and the school list will be acknowledged very shortly.

The Red Cross War Fund for the chapter to date stands at \$4,102.02, an amount larger by \$1,012.02 than the original quota. In addition to the amount reported in this chapter, the Robersonville chapter has raised \$1,923.68, making a total of \$6,025.70 for the county. The Robersonville chapter has exceeded its quota by several hundred dollars.

Williamston Township	\$294.74
Bear Grass Township	343.90
Jamesville Township	502.67
Griffins Township	296.72
Williams Township	105.46
Macedonia Bible School	25.00
Colored	696.53
Total	\$4912.02

A partial list of the colored contributors follows:

- George L. Hardison, 1.00; Robert Brown, 85c; William Faison, 60c; Alonza Jones, 50c; Daniel Moore, 50c; Edward Long, 50c; James Lambertson, 50c; Orlando Clemons, 50c; Bennie Williams, 50c; Willie J. Saunders, 50c; James Wiggins, 50c; Thomas Stephenson, 50c; Leonard Mobley, 50c; Simon Howard, 40c; Randolph Hinton, 45c; Henry Rouse, 35c; Ulysses Whitley, 35c; James Smith, 30c; James Bridgest, 25c; Jodie Gaynor, 25c; Henry Lowe, 25c.

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U. S. Forces Push Toward Rommel's Lifeline in Tunisia

Russians Continue Steady But Slowed Drive Toward Smolensk

American forces, taking a last mountain position, are now driving on toward the coastal road, Rommel's last avenue of escape by land, in Tunisia. Despite what was described as fairly heavy casualties, the American forces are gradually overcoming the enemy and are now within 26 miles of the main coastal highway which lies a few miles in from the sea.

Starting a drive against the strongly fortified Mareth line in southern Tunisia last Saturday night, the British Eighth Army established bridgeheads at a few points. These were later wiped out by Rommel's forces, but late dispatches from the front declare that the British are now moving forward against the Germans, that Rommel was puzzled to understand how Montgomery's men could face the withering fire from the large number of tanks he is throwing into the fight. The British and the Americans are now about 55 miles apart in Tunisia, and each with a task to handle, apparently is determined to come through. It is apparent, however, that Allied leaders are expecting heavy casualties, Secretary of War Stimson stating at a press conference yesterday that "While we may expect favorable progress in North Africa we must remember that we will pay for this success with heavy casualties. There still is much hard fighting ahead of us and many more heroic Allied soldiers will make the sacrifice for our cause."

Over in Russia, the Red Army is still making progress in its drive toward Smolensk, and is within about 37 miles of the important base held by the Germans. The drive has been slowed, the Germans apparently having shifted some of their strength from the Kharkov-Belgorod area to the defense of the city. One of the greatest battles of the war is believed well in the making there. To the south, the fighting has decreased in intensity, but in the Caucasus the Russians have made considerable progress against the enemy during the past two days.

Hitler and his crowd are getting jittery over a possible invasion, a report stating this morning that entire villages are being blown up to make way for defense preparations. Huge reinforced concrete walls are being erected there, the report added.

Little activity has been reported over the continent recently, but the

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Fifteen Drunks In Mayor's Court Here

Rounded up by officers over the week-end, fifteen persons charged with drunkenness were carried before Justice J. L. Hassell this week.

The proceedings:

- George Foreman, drunk and disorderly, \$8.50 costs.
- George Williams, drunk and disorderly, \$8.50 costs.
- John F. Richards, drunk and disorderly, \$8.50 costs.
- Henry Dwyman, drunk and disorderly, \$8.50 costs.
- Abe Roberson, drunk and disorderly, \$8.50 costs.
- Leon Pool, drunk and disorderly, \$8.50 costs.
- Levy Jones, drunk and disorderly, \$8.50 costs.
- Sam Roberson, drunk and crying, \$8.50 costs.
- Noah Andrews, drunk and disorderly, \$7.50 costs.
- Linwood Powell, drunk and disorderly, \$7.50 costs.
- Willie Keys, drunk and disorderly, \$7.50 costs.
- Roosevelt Everett, drunk and disorderly, \$6.50 costs.
- Carl Mills, drunk, \$8.50 costs.
- Rosa Lee Mills, drunk, \$8.50 costs.
- Joe Mills, drunk, \$8.50 costs.

Gets Call To Report For Service April 6th

Volunteering last May, Stuart Critcher, local boy, was notified this week to report for active duty at the Fort Bragg induction center on April 6th. He has been a member of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, State College, for the past several months.

Joint Meeting Will Consider Farm Classifications Tuesday

The Martin County Draft and War Boards in a joint meeting here next Tuesday evening will consider the first claims for classification under the farm production plan, Draft Board Chairman R. H. Goodman announced this morning. There are several hundred registrants in this group, but the board will hardly be able to consider more than one hundred of them at the joint meeting.

No official information is to be had at this time, but it is generally believed that comparatively few of the registrants are supporting claims for classification under the farm production plan. Following the meeting next Tuesday night, the Draft Board will notify the registrants of the action taken. Those who are placed in the 1-A group will be allowed thirty days to alter their production schedules to meet the requirements. If they are unable to change their production schedule

and add more units, then the registrants will be continued in the 1-A classification under the rules and regulations existing at this time. While the machinery is being set in motion for the classification of registrants under the farm production plan, the draft board is going ahead with its plans to draw and draw heavily from the group of single men with dependents and married men without children. One hundred claims to deferment were reviewed this week, and other claims are being filed but in comparative small numbers so far. These claims must be filed immediately if they are to get consideration, for it is understood that the draft contingent is scheduled to leave the county about the middle of April. Those cases handled last Monday night may be reopened for the most part only by appeal to the district appeal board.