

Record-Breaking Vote Is Being Cast In Nation Today

Both Sides Claiming Victory Before Voting Is Hardly Half Complete

Following one of the most bitter campaigns in recent political history, voting in the national elections was off to a hurried start this morning over the land, reports received early this afternoon pointing to one of the largest votes ever piled up in any election in this country.

Hardly had the balloting been half completed before both sides issued claims to victory. Ed Flynn, national chairman for the Democrats, predicted Roosevelt would carry 39 states and annex 427 of the 531 electoral votes. Chairman Joe Martin for the Republicans, claimed that Willie would get 324 of the 531 electoral votes.

About the only certainty in today's election is the solidarity of the South for Roosevelt. Early reports from the mid-west and New England cast doubt on the outcome for Roosevelt. A small precinct in New Hampshire, casting and counting its vote before noon, gave Willie 27 and Roosevelt 12 votes.

A small precinct in Michigan gave Willie 13 and Roosevelt two votes. A western precinct in this State gave Roosevelt 24 votes and Willie none. Several small precincts in Montgomery County, Alabama, polled 660 votes for Roosevelt and five for Willie. Several precincts in Houston, Texas, gave Roosevelt 756 and Willie 174 votes.

These early returns offer no concrete base to work on, but it is possible that the Michigan and New Hampshire vote, however small they may be, they carry some serious implications.

Voting was progressing fairly slow in several of the precincts in this county at noon today, indicating that a big rush would likely follow by late afternoon or just before closing time. At 11:20 this morning, Robersonville precinct had cast 294 votes. Everetts had placed 138 ballots in the box at noon. Williamston Precinct No. 1 chalked up a count just short of 400 at 1:30 this afternoon. Williamston's No. 2 box had 440 votes at 2 o'clock. Voting is progressing without incident in this county, the Republican strength being so negligible that a half-hearted argument can't be advanced.

Unofficial reports state that Kentucky is having its usual election troubles. Several shootings were said to have taken place during the early hours, but details could not be had immediately.

Nazis Confiscating Property and Food Of French People

Vandals Are Carting Away All Valuables As Indemnity Reserve

Coming by a messenger to this country, a recent story appearing in the Congressional Record tells how the Germans are stripping the vanquished French of their properties as well as their food supplies. The story follows:

Money is a good subject with which to introduce what is actually happening in France. What people are using for money, what its purchasing power, its foreign exchange value, its probable future, etc. Money is the facet of public policy which most intimately touches the civilian.

In occupied France we carry two kinds of currency in our jeans: French francs and occupation marks. The occupation mark is neither a Reichsmark nor a tourist mark, and is legal tender only in the occupied zone. It has no metal coverage and no worth other than the power of the military authority to impose its acceptance.

Lumbering along with the army of occupation came printing presses on wheels. Notices upon the walls and the voice of the broadcaster informed merchants and hotel keepers that the two-toned brown notes, on stiff, crackly paper, were to be accepted at the ratio of 1 mark to 20 franc. The ambulances operate in the provincial cities, grinding out small denomination notes by the million. A finance commissioner regulates their output, so that they shall not drown the market.

With occupation marks, the military who control France pay themselves the equivalent of 40 francs a day, which is exactly 50 times what French soldiers on active duty receive. With occupation marks, supplies are purchased for the upkeep of the garrisons. With these worthless notes, the shelves of stores are being stripped. Merchants of antiques, jewelry, kodaks, radios, linen, and women's costumes, shoes, are obliged to keep their shops open for business, even though the stocks disappear and no replacements are in sight. On an average, one store in three is empty, and stands with shutters closed. Butter, eggs, meat, grain are purchased in carload lots, before the stuff can arrive at the

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Plans Go Forward for Annual Red Cross Call In the County

Preliminary arrangements for conducting the annual Red Cross membership campaign in the Martin County chapter were announced today by Chairman Harry A. Biggs. District chairmen have been appointed as follows: Mrs. Joseph A. Eason, Williamston; Mr. J. F. Jordan, Dardens; Mrs. Hugh Daniel, Griffins Township; Mrs. Charles Davenport, Jamesville; H. D. Harrison, Jr., at Herman Rogerson's store, Bear Grass. These chairmen will name workers to carry the roll call into all parts of their respective districts.

Coming just a little over two months following the flood disaster in this and other sections of North Carolina, the Red Cross call is almost certain to receive a record support in the chapter this season. The organization, drawing from its national fund, spent nearly \$100,000 in North Carolina aiding those who experienced losses in and during the flood. While quite a few lost their homes and most of their earthly possessions, the disaster in this State was small compared with the suffering and losses being experienced by millions who anxiously and hopefully look to the organization for relief. And without that relief many are certain to die of want and hunger. Possibly at no other time in history have there been more pleas, pathetic and worthy in their every case, than today.

The Red Cross answered the call when this and other counties needed aid. Support the Red Cross now that it might extend aid to other needy humans in other sections and lands. The call will open in this chapter next Monday and continue through Thanksgiving.

Commissioners Delay 1939 Tax Settlement

Government Will Receive Peanuts In County Soon

The Growers Peanut Cooperative, incorporated, an organization set up to administer the 1940 peanut surplus removal program in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee announces that it plans to begin opening warehouses for the purchase of peanuts under this program not later than Thursday of this week.

The prices to be paid growers for their peanuts by this organization for the Virginia area are the same as prices under the 1939 program. Present plans are to open around forty warehouses to act as receiving agent in the peanut belt to North Carolina and Virginia.

Marriage License Issuance Is Below Normal In October

Sixteen Marriages Reported In County During the Past Month

Despite all the talk about the possibility of war effecting climaxes to love affairs, the number of marriages in this county continues slightly below the average for the past ten-year period. It is true that the number of marriages in the past month is five greater than the number reported for the corresponding month, a year ago, but on an average the register of deeds in this county has issued 22 marriage licenses each October during the past ten-year period. Only in two Octobers during that period has the number of marriage licenses fallen below the issuance reported last month. In October, 1931, there were 12 marriages and in October of last year there were eleven marriages recorded in this county. Without the war threat and under normal conditions possibly the number of marriages would have been smaller.

Licenses were issued to the following couples by Register of Deeds J. Sam Gotsinger in the county last month.

White
Reuben Fernando Bland, of Robersonville, and Ella Gray Brown, of Bethel.
Zeno Dempsey Whitehurst, of Conetoe, and Maggie Dale Downs, of Hassell.
John Ashley Hardison and Mary

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Woman Badly Cut By An Ex-Convict

Pattie Spruill, local colored woman, was almost cut to death by Andrew Lloyd, a former suitor, at her home on North Biggs Street here last Saturday night. Using a sharp knife or razor, Lloyd slashed the woman's throat almost from ear to ear. She lost considerable blood before she could reach a doctor for medical attention. She was said yesterday to still be suffering from weakness and shock and expressed a continued fear of her attacker. "He might come back and try to finish killing me," the woman was quoted by police.

Lloyd, just out of a prison road camp where he had completed serving a three-year sentence for an attack on Farmer Walter Gurganus, had not been arrested early today. In a letter written to the woman some time before his release, Lloyd was said to have threatened her life.

Wm. Hopkins Dies At Rocky Mount Sunday Afternoon

His Death Was Second in the Family Within Past Ten Days

William Harmon Hopkins, Martin County native, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Theo Mobley, in Rocky Mount Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, his death being the second in the family within the past ten days. His little granddaughter, Beulah Faye, was fatally injured in an automobile accident near here week before last.

Mr. Hopkins, a highly respected citizen and a resident of this county up until about a month ago when he went to visit his daughter in Rocky Mount, had been in declining health for more than a year. Following the death of his wife, the former Miss Addie Calloway, last spring, his health failed him rapidly, the end coming gradually.

The son of the late William Harmon and Bettie Lee Hopkins, he was born in this county, 82 years ago. Orphaned at a tender age, he was reared by the late Dr. J. E. Smithwick's father in the island section of Williams Township where he spent most of his life. He farmed all his life until he had made his home with his children in this county and in Rocky Mount. He was an active member of the Baptist Church at Riddick's Grove, and enjoyed a wide circle of friends throughout his community. He was the last member of his immediate family.

Five children, Mrs. Theo Mobley, of Rocky Mount; Mrs. B. L. Daniel, of Williamston; Howard Herman, of Williams Township; Thade Hopkins, of Bear Grass Township, and William Lee Hopkins, of Bertie County, survive him.

Funeral services were conducted at the home of his son in Williams Township yesterday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by his pastor, Rev. W. B. Harrington. Interment was in the family plot near the home.

John Wesley York Dies In Hospital Here Early Today

Funeral for Retired Farmer At Home of Sister Tomorrow Afternoon

John Wesley York, retired farmer, died in a local hospital this morning at 3 o'clock following a long period of declining health. He entered the hospital only yesterday morning, and little hope was held at that time for his recovery.

The son of the late John and Mary Bernard York, he was born in Battleboro, Edgecombe County, 61 years ago next month. When a young man he moved with his parents to this county where his father was a pioneer tobacco farmer. They located near Williamston some over forty years ago, and he farmed all of his life until his health failed him. He was a member of the Methodist Church.

In early manhood he was married to Miss Annie Bernard who survives him. He leaves no children. Besides his widow he is survived by three sisters, Mrs. J. M. Oakley with whom he made his home near here on the Hamilton Road, and Mrs. W. H. Bunting and Mrs. D. C. Bryan, both of Portsmouth. A brother, Dr. H. B. York, died here about twelve years ago.

Funeral services will be conducted tomorrow afternoon at the home at 3 o'clock by Rev. J. H. Smith, Baptist minister, in the absence of Rev. S. J. Starnes, pastor of the Methodist church. Burial will be in the family plot in the local cemetery.

County Committee In Regular Meeting

The Martin County Agricultural Conservation Association committee met in regular session here yesterday with its new chairman, Farmer C. C. "Frosty" Martin, of Jamesville, in charge. It was the first meeting of the recently-elected county committee. Other members present were J. F. Crisp, chairman of the old committee, and Roy T. Griffin, of Williamston.

After acquainting themselves with their new work, the members of the committee made a detailed study of the farm program for 1941. An investigation of a "red" tobacco card was investigated, one report stating that the non-cooperating farmer was destroyed surplus tobacco.

Three Fined For Public Drunkenness By Justice

Public drunkenness broke out again on an appreciable scale here last Saturday night when three persons were arrested and a number of others missed the housework by half a drink. Toby Barber, J. T. Perry and Lemuel Outerbridge, charged with public drunkenness, were carried before Justice J. L. Hassell and fined \$6.50 including costs.

First Questionnaires to Be Mailed Next Friday

Volunteers Likely To Delay Call Of Men in the County

Official Order Numbers Will Be Posted at Courthouse On Thursday

The machinery for the classification of registrants under the Selective Service Act will start turning in this county on Friday of this week when the first fifty questionnaires are placed in the mails. An additional fifty questionnaires will be placed in the mail Saturday. No questionnaires will be mailed on Sunday but on succeeding days the forms will be entered in the mails at the rate of fifty each day.

Receiving the master list carrying the national lottery order numbers Monday morning, the Martin County Draft Board immediately started numbering its cards, and the master list, showing both serial and order numbers will be posted Thursday in the courthouse. The questionnaires will be mailed in the order of "order" numbers. Farmer Malgram Barefoot receiving the first one.

Meeting in session here last Friday evening, members of the draft board, advisory committee and assistants received instructions for extending aid to the registrants in the preparation of the answers to the questionnaires. All members of the board, advisory committee and thirty-two assistants attended the school. The advisory committee and assistants will offer aid only when the registrants ask for assistance. The registrant is asked to fill in the answers himself, but if he desires aid he may go to members of the advisory committee or to the assistants who are to be found in nearly every community over the county.

The questionnaires are to be returned to the draft board at Williamston five days after they are mailed. The first batch of the questionnaires scheduled to be mailed Friday must be returned the following Wednesday or postmarked that day. The second batch of fifty to be mailed Saturday must be returned by the following Thursday and so on. Time extensions for preparing the answers and filling in the questionnaires will be granted after a strict ruling by the national board. Delays will be considered when there is sickness, or the distance is too great for the registrant to receive, fill in and return the form in five days, or where it requires more than five days to get the necessary affidavits. When a registrant asks an extension, he must return the questionnaire within the specified time of five days and have extension permission marked on the questionnaire.

A registrant who fails to get his questionnaire back into the hands of the draft board before the five-day period expires is subject to fine and imprisonment.

No official communication has been received by the draft board in this county, but Chairman R. H. Goodmon is of the opinion that volunteer enlistments will more than offset the first quota calls. Mr. Goodmon stated this morning that he is of the opinion that the county will get credit for those men enlisting in the service since registration day. Six county young men have entered the service since that day, and in addition to that number six young men have asked that they be allowed to enter the service for one year's training ahead of those who are subject to first call. Briefly stated, it appears that this county will get credits equal to twelve men.

A definite quota has not yet been assigned the county, but the first call will be for six or seven men, it is estimated.

The second group of unofficial order numbers, running from 501 to 1,000, appears on another page of

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James W. Coltrain Dies At Home Here

James W. Coltrain, 80-year-old local man, died at his home on Pine Street here Sunday morning at 6 o'clock following a long period of declining health. Suffering a stroke of paralysis about three months ago the retired farmer had been confined to his bed since that time.

He was born in this county, the son of the late John and Emma Leggett Coltrain. He was a member of Christian Church at Robersonville for many years.

Funeral services were conducted at the home yesterday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by Revs. John L. Goff and Z. T. Piephoff. Interment was in the Aurborn cemetery in Cross Roads Township.

Mr. Coltrain lived at the county home for a number of years, but had made his home with Mrs. Maggie Daniel here for some time. The last member of his immediate family, he was considerate and thoughtful of others and was apologetic in his helplessness.

Sheriff's Sale Of Taxes Held in the County Yesterday

Offering the smallest number of delinquent tax accounts subjected to the auction block in this county in a number of years, Sheriff-Collector Charlie B. Roebuck yesterday went about the work unmolested and virtually unnoticed. The list was read and sold in quick order. An occasional traveler into the courthouse stopped every now and then to hear the sheriff reading to himself and bidding in the property for the county.

Not a single individual bid was received. The county is now the owner of the accounts which will be turned over to the county attorney for collection or foreclosure if payment is not effected within a certain time.

Following the auction yesterday, the sheriff stated that he believed the number of delinquents would be materially reduced during the next thirty or sixty days.

The sale yesterday was the first on record to receive no individual bids. It is estimated that 99 per cent of the delinquent accounts will be paid before final foreclosure proceedings are instituted.

Democrats Wind Up Campaign With Big Rally At Everetts

Party Leaders Declare There Is More Interest in Politics Than in Years

Democratic Party rallies, after reaching a low point in the political scheme in this county, staged a strong comeback this year, party leaders declaring that a marked interest had been shown in the impromptu programs held in nearly every community in the county during the past ten days. The loyal Democrats, including nominees and several others interested in democracy, brought a whirlwind campaign to a close with a big rally in Everetts last night. Possibly one of the largest crowds to attend a community political meeting in years was present, the crowd including a number of ladies prominent in party circles.

Farm Life Democrats were present in comparatively small numbers at the rally held there last Friday evening, "but we had a good meeting and we can depend upon a good-sized and a favorable vote there," one of the canvassers said.

A full house was reported over in Williams Township for the rally there Saturday night. But the house is small.

Today the canvassers have cause to be well pleased with their work, preliminary reports from a number of voting precincts pointing to a record-size vote in the making.

There was no scheduled opposition on the county ticket, and little on the other ballots, but the party leaders, throwing off any lethargy that might let democracy lapse into a state of doubt, continued their work with the accepted task of getting out a confidence vote especially for the national democratic ticket.

Reports that a few colored citizens had held meetings in support of Wendell Wilkie for President are apparently without foundation. It was reliably learned, however, that Jack Everetts, lodge man and society leader, had addressed a large congregation in the Corner Stone Baptist Church, Warren Street, in the interest of Mr. Roosevelt's re-election.

Local Negro Loses Life In Logwoods

Willie Thompson, 35-year-old local colored man, was fatally injured while working in the logwoods about two miles below Hill's Ferry on the Roanoke River yesterday afternoon at 3:40 o'clock. Taken from the woods in Bertie County, the man was ferried across the river and died on the way to a local doctor's office.

Thompson was advised of the danger and started to move. Witnesses stated that his foot became entangled in some vines and he fell, the tree striking and cracking his skull.

Coroner S. R. Biggs investigated the accident and ruled that an inquest was unnecessary.

A native of Wilson, Thompson came here from Kenly about four years ago and entered the employ of Saunders and Cox. He married Dorothy Huff and was recognized as a good workman. Thompson had registered for the draft, his death being the second among the registrants in this county since October 16.

Budget Approved By Commissioners In Meeting Today

Little Change Recommended In Town Expenditures For New Year

Meeting in delayed session here this morning at 10 o'clock, Williamston's town commissioners tentatively adopted the 1940-41 budget and handled several minor business matters, a few of which fell into the routine class.

The new budget, calling for a \$2.60 tax rate, is based on a valuation of \$1,700,000 and remains virtually unchanged as far as total figures are concerned from last year's financial schedule. Reductions were effected in the expenditures for several of the departments, and a \$3,000 item was included in the new budget for the proposed remodeling of the town hall—in addition to the \$44,200 expected from the general tax levy. The budget anticipates about \$18,840 from other sources to boost the total revenue to \$63,040 for the 1940-41 year. Most of the added income is expected in the form of water sales. The \$3,000 remodeling item was partially offset by reductions in other departments and also by a "nice" increase in property values as compared with the listings for the year 1939-40.

The new budget was tentatively adopted without much discussion, the treasurer pointing out that a decrease in the rate is possible next year if no further expansion programs are launched. The prediction was partly based on expected increases in assessed property values. Permits for opening wine package stores here were denied, the board pointing out that the county ABC stores are already handling wine, and that the revenue from the town that the \$15 wine store license. One of the permits was asked by L. E. Raskin, Tarboro man.

Sidewalk paving on the east side of Elm Street was postponed by order of the board, but work on curb and gutter is now underway on that street.

The meeting, scheduled to have been held last night, was postponed until this morning so Mayor Hassell could continue his work with the Democratic Party canvassers in their campaign of the county.

Balkan Situation Is Aggravated By Italian Bombing

Serious Repercussions Are Thought Likely As Result Of Italian Attack

The Balkan situation, already recognized as serious, was aggravated today when Italian planes flew into Yugoslavia and bombed two towns, a noon-day report stating that serious repercussions are likely to follow. A neighbor of Greece, Yugoslavia is now under pressure to grant certain Axis demands. It is considered possible in some quarters that the demands will be denied since the bombing took place and that the Serbs and others making up the little nation will go to the direct aid of Greece.

The war in Greece is behaving as a see-saw, the Greeks making marked gains in one section and the Italians claiming big gains in another. It is quite apparent that the little country has had the best of the fighting to date, but future possible developments are causing concern for the Greeks. An Italian stronghold in Albania is being shelled by the Greeks and 20,000 Italian soldiers are said to have been trapped.

As Greece fights bravely against heavy odds, Great Britain today stated that plans had been completed for a heavier attack from the air on Italy. The RAF now is operating a large number of its big bombers out of Greek bases, hardly 400 miles removed from Italy.

Warfare on the sea is taking a serious turn for English shipping. Added Nazi and Italian submarines are operating in the Atlantic, the Italians claiming 24,000 tons of British shipping as their work for yesterday.

There is apparent disappointment among the Axis partners at this time. The plan to include France in the New Order is not progressing as Hitler had hoped. Mussolini apparently acted without Hitler's approval when he attacked Greece. The next order will possibly be a drive through Spain and against Gibraltar.

Local Man Injured In Tarboro Auto Accident

Grant Allen, employee of the F. B. Birmingham Contracting Company, was badly injured in an auto accident near Tarboro last Saturday night about 10 o'clock. Struck by a speeding car, the man was badly cut on the hip, had a finger almost torn off and suffered other injuries. Fourteen stitches were necessary to close the hip wound. He is recovering in a Tarboro hospital.

The hit-and-run driver was arrested in Greenville a short time after the accident and was placed under a \$500 bond.