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University Dean Of Men Makes Forceful Address To Seniors

No Class Ever Faced A Greater Crisis, Speaker Warns Graduates

Briefly congratulating the forty-one graduates and paying a tribute to those who had seen them through the several years of school, Herbert Herring, Duke University dean of men, in a forceful commencement address in the high school auditorium here last Wednesday evening discussed the crucial period in which the world travels today.

"I wish I could paint a bright picture of the future for you, but it can't be done today," the young university man said in warning the youthful seniors and the large commencement crowd that this country has never faced a greater crisis than the one it is facing today. Continuing Dr. Herring said, "There's a terrific conflict going on among mankind today, and in this crucial time we are failing to comprehend the dire straits into which man has plunged himself. There have been bad events before us, but they will not compare with the serious ones we are now facing. The backwash of this war will make the backwash of the last one look like a 'piker,'" he declared.

Pleading the seriousness of the grave situation facing us today, Dean Herring reviewed briefly a few of the events following the first World War. "We were moved by high-sounding phrases at the beginning of the first World War. Our men bled and died to 'make the world safe for democracy,'" the speaker said, declaring that he did not believe the great Woodrow Wilson led this country into war in behalf of the capitalists. "When we came back, what did we do?" he asked. "We would have nothing to do with the League of Nations. We retired to a shell of complacency. When we were asked to sit around the conference table and apply reasoning to the problems, we refused to have a part in the deliberations. We were afraid of the World Court. We were too busy putting ourselves on the back for coming out of the war a creditor nation. When Japan invaded China, Secretary Stimson could do nothing and could get no one to do anything to stop the aggressor. We have been sorry for China, but not until a short time ago did we stop shipping Japan oil and iron to be used in killing the helpless Chinese. Italy got our war material to invade Ethiopia, and not until 1933 did we make any appreciable effort to cultivate better relations with our neighbors to the south."

Explaining that he was not criticizing the government, the speaker then advanced the main theme of his address, stating that every government in a democracy is only as good as we make it, that as long as only 40 per cent of the eligible citizens participate in elections, one cannot help but feel that democracy is falling.

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Dog Vaccinations Almost Completed

The annual round-up of dogs in this county is nearing completion, reports from the dispensaries stating that the drive against rabies has been very successful with one exception. In all of the clinics held to date, the number of dogs vaccinated has been greater than last year.

Williamston owners failed to get their dogs to the clinic held here recently, but reliable information states that court action will be taken in every single case. Out of an estimated 400 dogs, only 134 were vaccinated in Williamston Township. A final round-up clinic will be held in Williamston possibly week after next, and all owners in the county who have not had their dogs vaccinated according to announced schedule will be given an opportunity to comply with the law. Those who forget or refuse to comply with the law are almost certain to face prosecution in the courts.

Dr. J. W. Williams had the following to say this week in connection with the clinics:

I believe all the expense and trouble the people of this county have gone to in having their dogs protected against rabies has been fully justified.

The health department has not been called on to give anti-rabic treatments to a single person since I have been here, which is a year and four months.

In other counties in which I have worked these treatments have run into the hundreds and I know that the efforts the police and county officials have made to enforce the law has paid us huge dividends in the prevention of not only deaths but the anxiety, pain and expense attendant on these treatments when there is suspicion connected with a dog bite.

We hope the good work will continue and the officials will not let up in the enforcement of the law which includes the destruction of all dogs whose owners will not obey and the strays, especially those in the towns.

Let Contract Today For Street Surfacing

STRICTLY FORMAL

Possessing hardly a meaning and recognized as a mere formality in democratic government, Williamston's bi-annual municipal election will be held next Tuesday. The polls will be opened from 8 a. m. until sunset in the town hall. Ballots for the convention's tickets have been prepared in quantity, and it is not at all likely that an independent ticket will be offered or that opposition will appear within the regular ticket.

Five citizens have registered for the election, and possibly they and a few others will find time to vote next Tuesday.

Forty-One Seniors Get Diplomas Here Wednesday Night

Meritorious Awards Announced at Commencement; 50 Go To Eighth Grade

Comprising a class just one short of a record number, forty-one young men and women were graduated by the local high school Wednesday evening, the authorities stating that the event marked the close of another successful year in the school.

Committeeman R. L. Coburn just before delivering the diplomas offered the young group timely advice when he urged them to return to the school for advanced training and warned them against the worthless expenditure of their time. Attired in their special caps and gowns, the following 41 graduates proceeded to the stage for the hard-earned sheepskins:

Edith Elaine Andrews, Josephine Andrews, John Warner Bailey, Mary Alice Cherry, Charles Wiggins Coltrane, Roosevelt Coltrane, Virginia Grey Corey, Onley Cowan, Jr., Rosa Leona Davenport, Patty Grey Etheridge, Anne Coffield Fowden, John Benjamin Godwin, Mary Charles Godwin, Simon Claude Griffin, Jr., Susie Evelyn Griffin, Lucille Faye Gurganus, David Wilson Hardison, Gene Melburn Hardison, Nettie Bina Jackson, Gerald Otis James, Carrie Godard Jones, Dorothy Jeane Jones, William C. Mercer, Jr., William John Miller, Frances Elizabeth Parker, Daisy Mae Peaks, John Eason Peel, William Eugene Peele, Le Roy Perry, Carlton Aubrey Phelps, Warren Biggs Pope, John Haywood Rogers, Jr., William Earle Stinnette, Mary Katherine Swain, Sarah Keel Taylor, James Willis Ward, Ruth McAllister Ward, Pennie Rose Waters, Ellis Saunders White, Evelyn Ruby Wynne, Garland Benjamin Wynne.

Principal David N. Hix armed 50 youthful lads and lassies with the necessary credentials for entrance in the high school department here next fall. The seventh-grade graduates, a bit small to be sure, are a bright-looking group and will, no doubt, form a solid foundation for the higher department in local education. Explaining that more pupils drop out of school between the sixth and ninth grades, the principal urged all the seventh-graders to be on hand for the opening of school next September.

Attorney Hugh G. Horton announced the special awards and presented the trophies. The W. C. Manning valedictory cup was earned by Miss Elizabeth Parker. The Woman's Club civics cup went to the band, a comparatively new department in the high school but one that has made remarkable progress under the direction of Professor Jack Butler during the past few months. Vice-commander Carrow received the award for the band. For her all-around work as a home economics student, Miss Lenora Melson was awarded the Sarah Manning home economics cup. James Willis Ward, best all-around athlete, received the Ray H. Goodmon athletic award.

The Junior Woman's Achievement cup, awarded this year for the first time for the best seventh grade student, went to Miss Pearl Newbern. Reviewing the work of the high school, Principal D. N. Hix commended the pupils and instructors in the manual arts, music and other departments.

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Work Is Slated To Get Underway In The Next Few Days

J. M. Gregory, Raleigh Contractor, Low Bidder On Street Project

A contract for the surfacing of 12,500 square yards of local streets was let to J. M. Gregory, Raleigh contractor, by the town board of commissioners in special session here this morning. According to the terms of the contract, the low bidder is to lay the materials for 10 cents a square yard and furnish a subgrade for a stipulated rental of \$450 a month. The contract cost for laying the material on the streets will be \$1,250, the town engineer, Henry Rivers, estimating that the subgrading will not exceed \$900.

Handled in cooperation with the Works Progress Administration, the project will draw support from that organization and the town. The WPA is furnishing the stone estimated to cost around two cents a yard, and the asphalt, costing 6 cents a gallon, will be furnished by the town. The cost of the project excluding WPA labor and material is estimated as follows: \$1,250 contract price for laying material, \$900 for sub-grader, and \$1,080 for 18,000 gallons of asphalt. These figures do not include gas and oil and trucks for grading.

Hitler Is Apparently Preparing Drive To Suez And Oil Fields

Axis Threatens To Sink All War Material Shipments To The British

Uncertainty continues to hover over the next move Adolf Hitler and his hordes will make in the European war arena, but present indications are that he is preparing a drive on the Suez Canal, Britain's life line, and the rich oil fields in Iraq. There are other courses Hitler may follow, including a drive on Gibraltar and then there is still the possibility that he will advance another invasion attempt of Britain. Apparently, Hitler is side-stepping Turkey for the present. There are rumors of a bad break between Germany and Russia, but at the present time England's only hope of aid is in the United States.

New and strong forces of the British imperial army are standing guard in Iraq in the path of a vast Axis pincer movement which appears to have begun already a sweep aimed at engulfment of Suez, Egypt and the rich oil fields of Asia Minor.

Authoritative sources disclosed that additional British forces had been landed at Basra, over the opposition of the new Iraq government and in the face of Iraq army concentrations which, they feared are threatening the British air base at Habantayah, on the Euphrates. This base is 60 miles west of Baghdad. Authoritative sources said they had heard reports that Nazi agents were "intriguing" recently in Iraq and expressed the hope that the Iraq government will show plainly that such intrigues are not effective.

West of Suez, at the edge of Egypt's western desert, Axis armored columns had pierced the outer defenses of British held Tobruk, and well informed observers were openly agitated lest the Axis scissors close before General Sir Archibald P. Weavell has a chance to reorganize and re-equip the British Middle-eastern armies following their Balkan defeats.

These observers say elimination of the British hold on Tobruk is essential to the Germans and Italians before they can renew in force their eastward thrust across North Africa. Once Tobruk has fallen, only the British fleet and air force would be able to cut the Axis lines which stretch some 800 miles east of Tripoli.

The fleet already is at work pounding anew at the Axis Panzers at El Gazala, west of Tobruk.

The additional contingents sent to Iraq, following the initial landings of April 17 and 18, presumably are there for these reasons:

1. To discourage the Germans from trying to send aid and sea-borne troops to next-door Syria, protectorate of Beaten France, and make Syria a base for a drive on Suez.

2. Stiffen Turkey's back against a Nazi march-through by land to the Middle East.

3. Provide greater protection for the Mosul oil fields.

4. Restrain the French in Syria from letting the Nazis get a foothold there.

Authoritative British sources acknowledged that the present Iraq authorities, who are in power as the result of a coup d'etat, demurred against the new troop landings on the ground that the men previously landed had not yet passed through the country.

The Iraqis, it was stated, had concurred in opening the lines of communication for the previously landed troops.

Making Survey For Wider River Bridge

Preliminary plans for widening the Roanoke River bridge here are being formulated this week by engineers of the North Carolina Highway and Public Works Commission. The proposed project has been under consideration for some time, but as far as it could be learned here no money has yet been appropriated. It is generally believed, however, that the project will receive consideration within a short time as the route is closely associated with the nation's defense program.

Questioned here yesterday, engineers explained that they knew little about the proposed project, that they were merely making a preliminary survey. It was learned, however, that the width will be increased by about ten feet, that the bridge including the draw span will be about 27 feet wide.

It was also learned unofficially that a temporary bridge would be constructed to accommodate traffic without interruption while work to widen the span is in progress.

Personnel For Operating Four Warehouses Here During Coming Season Is Virtually Completed

All Registrants in County To Get Questionnaires Shortly

Draft board machinery in this county and throughout the nation started turning more rapidly this week following an order from headquarters calling for the classification of all registrants as soon as possible. Work preliminary to the classification is being handled by the Martin board as rapidly as possible. Fifty questionnaires were placed in the mails Wednesday. Nearly 100 were mailed yesterday. Draft Board Clerk Marion Cobb stating that all of the remaining 1,650 questionnaires would probably be in the hands of the registrants by the early part of June. Nearly 1,200 questionnaires including those called for by volunteers with high order numbers, have already been sent out and returned, approximately 350 of the number now awaiting classification.

It could not be learned just when the draft board would resume its classification work, but it is likely that Chairman R. H. Goodmon will call a meeting within the next week or so.

The meaning of the order is not known here, but some are of the opinion that the Army wants to know its potential reserve strength, or it may be that the action is being taken in connection with a proposal to lower the draft age limits. And then it is possible that the Army is anticipating an increased and urgent need for more men within the near future.

It was unofficially learned this week that young men convicted of ordinary felonies will be received in the future. Those convicted of felonies have been rejected in the past, but in the future the Army apparently will reject only those men convicted of seasoned crimes.

Judge W. H. Coburn Calls Eight Cases In County's Court

Few Cases Docketed During Two Weeks Big Court Was in Session

Holding the first session since April 7, the Martin County Recorder's Court cleared its docket and caught up with its work in a very short time last Monday, the number of cases accumulating during the two weeks the superior court was in session being comparatively small. Judge W. H. Coburn called eight cases, and the proceedings attracted a fairly large crowd.

Probable cause appearing in the case charging Fred Jones with false pretense, the defendant was bound over to the superior court for trial in June.

Chester and Lester Saunders were charged with an assault with a deadly weapon. Chester was adjudged not guilty, and Lester, pleading guilty, was sentenced to the roads for a term of three months.

Charged with violating the liquor laws, Willoughby Andrews pleaded guilty. He was sentenced to the roads for six months, fined \$15 and taxed with the court costs. The road sentence, suspended by Judge Coburn, is to begin at the direction of the court at any time within one year.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of a \$10 fine and cost in the case charging Velma Chance with violating the liquor laws. The defendant pleaded guilty to the charge.

In the case charging Joseph Walter Bailey with drunken driving, the defendant through his attorney, B. A. Critcher, entered a plea of nolo contendere. The case was continued under prayer for judgment until May 5, the defendant voluntarily surrendering his operator's license pending pronouncement of final judgment.

The case charging Walter Wallace Bailey and Lee Dixon with larceny was continued.

In the case charging Walter Wallace Bailey and Anphus "Buddy" Knox with larceny, Bailey failed to answer. Knox, pleading not guilty, was adjudged guilty and the court sentenced him to the roads for 30 days and taxed him with the cost. The road sentence, according to the terms of the judgment, is to begin at the direction of the court at any time within one year and was suspended upon the promised good behavior of the defendant. The case was appealed and bond was required in the sum of \$100.

Jim Finch, charged with violating the liquor laws, was found not guilty.

Claims Worm Was In Bottle of Soft Drink

Claiming he drank a grub worm from a soft-drink bottle, Raymond Bowen, young colored man of Bear Grass Township, reported to a local doctor Wednesday noon for treatment. It was ruled that the man was not sick enough for medical attention.

Finding the proprietor busy at the front of the Mill Inn filling station, Bowen waited on himself. According to his claims, he sucked the worm from the bottle into his mouth but discharged the foreign matter with gusto. The filling station operator said that as far as he could detect, Bowen showed no signs of sickness. Bowen's claim was heard just a little over a week after foreign matter was said to have been found in a soft-drink bottle at Bear Grass.

Man Slightly Hurt As Truck Crashes Into Road Caravan

Log Truck Clears Big Grocery Truck From Highway Near Hamilton

No one was badly hurt but considerable property damage was caused when a run-away log truck crashed into a motor caravan near Hamilton and Oak City early last Wednesday afternoon. Jack Whitfield, young white man, suffered a sprained ankle when he allegedly jumped from the run-away truck just before it crashed into a grocery truck parked on the highway. No one was in the grocery truck and several other vehicles including a highway truck with a semi-trailer attached and a highway workman's house on wheels were unoccupied at the time, the drivers and others leaving their vehicles to clear a stalled truck from the highway.

Driving toward Hamilton from Oak City, Whitfield stated that he applied brakes to slow up, that the brakes grabbed and he released them. When he pushed in the brake lever a second time something went wrong and they would not hold. The truck traveled several hundred yards and struck the truck owned by Farmers Supply Company, of Tarboro, knocking the machine clear of the highway into the woods. The log truck then crashed into the semi-trailer and mashed it against the truck which, in turn, crashed into the house on wheels.

Pulled from the woods, the grocery truck was able to leave under its own power, but the log truck and one of the highway vehicles had to be towed away. Investigating the accident in the absence of Patrolman Saunders who was handling a weighing station in Washington, Deputy Sheriff Bill Haislip stated that the damage will approximate \$500.

Willie B. Jackson, colored operator of a truck belonging to E. G. Anderson, of Robersonville, had started to turn around in the narrow road and stuck the back end of the machine over an embankment. Workmen were busy during the greater part of two hours clearing the highway.

Man Mysteriously Disappears At Mill

Franklin Davis Simmons, well known employee of the North Carolina Pulp Company, mysteriously disappeared from the plant in the lower part of this county during the early hours of last Wednesday morning. Late reports today state that no trace of the missing man had been found. While some believe he ended his life by jumping into the Roanoke, officers investigating the case have advanced no theory or offered any explanation for the man's mysterious disappearance.

Leaving his home last Tuesday night to continue his work at the plant on the midnight shift, Simmons was said to have stopped his machine about 2 o'clock and left the plant. He was last seen walking toward the river. A short time later a search of the entire plant was started, but no trace of the man could be found.

Mr. Simmons, a native of Long Island, New York, was said to have been in ill health, suffering from a stomach ailment. Mrs. Simmons told Sheriff C. B. Roebuck that her husband had slept very little in recent weeks, but no clue supporting the suicide theory could be found in his personal effects.

Thinking possibly he was drowned, Sheriff Roebuck asked the Coast Guard to help drag the river near the plant. An airplane was dispatched to the scene Wednesday and later a Coast Guard boat with dragging equipment was placed in use but no trace of the body had been found at noon today.

Individual Firms To Operate Two of Four Tobacco Warehouses

Joint Partnership Is Formed For Operation of the Two Other Houses

Plans for the operation of Williamston's tobacco market for the coming season were announced virtually complete this week, the new arrangements placing a strong force at the operating helm.

The partnership of Leman Barnhill, Joe Moye and Holt Evans will continue the joint operation of the Farmers and Planters warehouses. S. Claude Griffin and Jimmy Taylor will operate the Roanoke-Dixie house. Johnny Gurkin is rapidly completing plans for the operation of the big Carolina house. Mr. Gurkin stated yesterday that a partnership was being considered, and that a public announcement could be expected within the next few days. An auctioneer for the house was just recently placed under contract by Mr. Gurkin and contracts with other personnel are pending, it was learned.

Last season two partnerships operated the four houses here, Messrs. Jimmy Taylor and Claude Griffin withdrawing to manage and operate the Roanoke-Dixie house. While the new arrangement may have its difficulties for the warehousemen, it is sincerely believed that they will prove decidedly advantageous for the market in that a stronger competition will follow and that the patrons will approve the plan.

These men are well known in the tobacco business and in other fields of endeavor designed and promoted for the general advancement of the community and especially farming interests. They have been associated with the tobacco business for a number of years and connected with the operation of the local market for long periods.

With these new arrangements, it is generally agreed that the Williamston Tobacco Market is approaching what is almost certain to be one of its best seasons in recent years. More interest has been expressed in the tobacco market, this spring than in any other corresponding period within the past eight or ten years. Patrons of the market and other farmers, showing a greater interest in the market than usual, are giving strong indications that they will offer a strong support to the operating personnel and materially

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More Teachers In County Resigning

While several schools plan no changes in their faculty personnel, quite a few resignations have been received by committees in other districts.

An unofficial report heard here yesterday stated that four prominent members of the Jamesville faculty had resigned. Principal J. Q. Patrick has resigned the principalship of the Everetts Elementary school.

Announcing his resignation yesterday, Principal Patrick declared that rumors of an attack by school authorities were unfounded. He did say that there had developed a division in the patrons, and possibly among the teachers and that he considered it in the interest of the school and all concerned that he should resign. The professor and Mrs. Patrick will continue to make their home in Everetts for the present, at least. "We have a garden well advanced, we like it there and we can live in Everetts as cheaply and as comfortably as we can anywhere," the school man said.

Oak City and Bear Grass re-elected their entire faculties. One resignation was received at Farm Life. A few resignations are expected in some of the other schools, but they have not yet been announced.

In Williamston, the committee received and accepted two resignations, those offered by James Watson, elementary building principal, and Lacy McGuire, head of the manual arts department. Professor Watson left yesterday for his home in Kenly with the expectation of entering private employment. Professor McGuire is leaving for Wilmington where he will enter private employment until later in the summer when he will go with the National Youth Administration. Mr. McGuire was with the organization last fall but was granted a leave of absence to accept the position here. Under his direction and with his help, members of the class have built their workshop and made an able start in the new department.

Teachers, re-elected by the local committees, have ten days in which to give notice of acceptance.

QUIET MEETING

An unusually quiet and uneventful meeting is in prospect for the Martin County commissioners here next Monday. Minutely scrutinizing the calendar, J. Sam Getsinger, clerk officio to the board, said, "Nope, there's little on the work schedule for next Monday, but one can never tell what will bob up." The only item on the list calls for the drawing of a jury for the one-week term of Martin County Superior Court convening in June.