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THE ENTERPRISE

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, May 5, 1942.



ESTABLISHED 1899

Applicants Request Large Number Tires Of Rationing Board

Current Requests Are Larger Than Quotas and Carry-Over Increases

While a large majority of the population continues to live most of the time on turning wheels, there are quite a few who are learning the real meaning of rationing. The majority can well prepare for a jolt, for it is coming and coming soon, apparently. Yesterday, manufacturers of about 400 steel products received meaningful instructions. They were told to substitute other articles for steel, join in the war production program or close down for the duration. About the only thing the motorist can do is stop riding. The rationing board, reviewing applications filed by Martin County motorists, finds that there are requests for 96 tires, 21 auto, 72 truck and three tractor, awaiting consideration. There are also 85 requests for tubes. It is estimated that the requests already on file will absorb the remainder of the May quota and that for June and July.

Many of the applications are nearly two months old, the board members explaining that certificates of purchase are allotted according to classification, that the requests in high-rating classifications must be filled first even though the applications in those cases are filed weeks after those in the lower classifications.

Truck tires and tubes were allotted this week to the following: Slade-Rhodes and Company, Hamilton, one tire and tube for general farm hauling.

Harry B. Thompson, Williamston, two truck tires and tube for logging. Roberson Slaughter House, Williamston, four tires and five tubes, for wholesale delivery of meats.

Frank F. Carstarphen, Williamston, one tire and tube for fuel deliveries.

Two auto tires and two tubes were allotted to John A. Ward, mail carrier, Williamston.

Applications for tires and tubes were filed by the following since the meeting of the rationing board last week:

R. A. Haislip, Oak City, two car tires and tubes for general farm hauling.

Toba Bowen, Williamston RFD, car tire and tube for use in fighting forest fires.

Clyde Waters, Williamston, four car tires for use in conveying defense workers on WPA project.

Mrs. Eva Avant, two recapped tires for use as assistant WPA supervisor.

R. H. Salisbury, Hassell, two obsolete tires and tubes for general farm hauling.

J. T. Gurganus, Williamston, two truck tires and tube for fuel deliveries.

Martin County Transfer Company, Robersonville, four truck tires and tubes for use as a common carrier.

W. Samuel Faulk, Williamston, four truck tires for ice deliveries.

Frank F. Carstarphen, Williamston, one truck tire and tube for fuel deliveries.

Control Of Prices Expected To Hold Down Living Costs

Leaf Tobacco in List of Items Uncontrolled by the President's Plan

While the action is not quite clear, the Office of Price Administration working in close cooperation with the President's seven-point program, is out to hold down living costs by controlling prices on thousands of items and leaving others uncontrolled.

The main points of the maximum-price regulation issued this week by the Office of Price Administration follow:

Beginning May 18, retail prices, with few exceptions, must not exceed the highest levels which each individual seller charged during March.

Beginning May 11, manufacturer and wholesale prices and the prices of wholesale and industrial services must not exceed the highest March levels for each seller.

Beginning July 1, no one may charge more for services sold at retail in connection with a commodity than he charged during March.

Effectively immediately, all retailers, wholesalers, manufacturers and sellers of services must preserve records of sales made during March for maximum-pricing purposes when the ceiling goes into effect.

Controlled Prices—These everyday articles are controlled by price restrictions:

Bread, beef, pork, sugar, fluid milk, cream, ice cream, canned meats, canned seafood, canned vegetables, canned soups, cereals, lard, coffee, tea, clothing, dry goods, yard goods, salt, soap, fuel, cigars, cigarettes, pipes, chewing tobacco, drugs, toilet articles, furniture, hardware, farming supplies.

Uncontrolled Prices—These everyday articles are not controlled by price restrictions:

Costly Forest Fires Reported In This County During April

Believed to have been of incendiary origin or the result of gross carelessness, three fires swept through thousands of acres of valuable timberland in this county last month, according to an unofficial report heard in reliable circles this week. In addition to the three big fires there were a dozen smaller ones, burning thirty acres or less of woodland.

Centered in Griffins and Jamesville Townships—and in a part of Bear Grass, the main fires did a damage estimated at between \$75,000 and \$100,000, authorities describing the loss as the most extensive one reported in the county in recent years. Representatives of the forest protection service were slow in discussing the origin of the fires, but it is understood that most of them were started during the night. They swept over large areas, destroying rapidly all small growth and in some cases fairly old timber.

Working night and day, seven days a week during a greater part of the month, Forest Warden Marvin Leggett stated yesterday that the last of the fires in this county was checked last week, the Wednesday rain helping relieve the serious situation in some areas. In Jamesville and Griffins little or no rain has fallen in weeks and the extreme dry weather has invited fires, and while they have been checked they are said to be still burning in the earth or subject to break out again. The warden declared that only heavy rains could check the ground fires.

STORE CLOSINGS

Despite rumors and reports to the contrary, Williamston stores are planning to observe each Wednesday afternoon during the summer as a holiday. The schedule becomes effective tomorrow and housewives and other patrons are earnestly urged to handle their shopping accordingly.

Quite a few towns in this section of the State have already adopted the holiday schedule for the mid-week afternoon, the services of the merchants, other business men and many of the employees having been directed at the war effort in one way or another such as war bond canvasses and victory garden work.

Colored Boy Loses His Life In River Friday Afternoon

Untimely Death Was Second Reported in Family in Past Eight Years

Shifting from the highways, untimely death claimed its first victim of the year in the county last Friday afternoon when Joseph Titus Scott, 11-year-old colored boy, was drowned in the Roanoke River near Conoho, about three miles north of Williamston. The body, well in a state of decomposition, was found and removed from the stream yesterday morning after officers and others had failed to recover it by dynamiting and dragging the river. Funeral arrangements had not been completed early today.

Carrying dinner to an older brother at the fertilizer plant at noon that day, the boy was instructed to return home. It is understood that he obeyed the command but later slipped away with his playmates, James Baker, George Smith, Louis Freeman and Burley Brooks, and went to the river. The boys were in swimming and playing when Scott stepped into a hole and got strangled and although he was said to be a good swimmer he got frightened and could not help himself. One of the boys started to him, but got frightened and turned back. The others ran for a pole, but he could not be found when they returned.

Investigating the case, Coroner S. (Continued on page six)

Bonner Addresses Farm Life Seniors

Addressing the Farm Life High School graduating class last Friday evening, Congressman Herbert Bonner painted no rosy picture for the youths but encouraged them by stating that the obstacles could be surmounted by perseverance, ambition and courage. Heard by a large group typical of those he has so willingly, ably and advantageously represented during his stay in the National House of Representatives, Mr. Bonner was well received.

Introduced by State Senator Hugh G. Horton, Congressman Bonner told the graduates that they were not just venturing forth from school but that they were going into almost an entirely new life. Some of them, he said, would go out and get jobs; others would go to colleges and other educational institutions, but all would find many difficulties in their paths to success and many stumbling blocks that could be overcome with the proper amount of ambition and courage.

He cited how the present world situation had changed the lives of all and how the war had great influence on all of them. He gave a brief but clear picture of the world as it stands in war today, indicating that the Allies eventually would drive Hitler and his Axis partner to their terms of surrender and would rid the world of tyrants. In painting the picture of the war he showed the part that most of the youthful graduates would have to play now and in their later years and urged that they have faith in the government and do all they were called on for without grumbling or complaining.

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Town Authorities In Regular Meet Here Last Night

Plans Made For Opening Pool To Public The Early Part of June

In a brief but fairly eventful session, the local town commissioners discussed a number of topics last evening, the business schedule including subjects relating to mosquito control, cemetery improvements, library, swimming pool and current bills.

A determined effort to control the mosquito is now underway with town hired as life guards—at \$10 a week each—clean-up program. Property owners have been notified that they will have to and are expected to aid the program. Brush and foreign material on numerous lots are to be removed, and the town will start spraying with oil ditches and other mosquito breeding places.

L. H. Ham, Goldsboro man, applied for a license to open and operate a beer and wine store on Washington Street. The application was not approved.

No action was taken on the request for damages alleged by Jim Bagley to have been done to his property when Broad Street was widened, the board reasoning that the property was improved rather than damaged.

Fitting into the mosquito control program, a tiling project between Rhodes and Houghton Street was conditionally approved. The ditch divides private property from the cemetery, the town agreeing to finance one-half the cost.

Appearing before the board, Rev. John L. Goff, representing the local public library committee, explained that the WPA was continuing its library projects and that the services of a librarian would have to be discontinued or financed—by other sources. He also explained that the several civic clubs had agreed, or virtually so, to finance a portion of the cost, and he asked the town to appropriate \$25 a month as its share. The request was approved and it is now believed the library service will be maintained.

Plans were virtually completed for opening the swimming pool on or about June 1. Mrs. W. H. Coburn and Miss Ruth Manning were employed to manage the pool for \$35 a week joint salary, and J. D. Woodard, Jr., and Jimmie Manning were hired as life guards at \$10 a week each. There is a supply of chlorine on hand to insure operation of the pool for at least half the summer, and orders are being placed for more.

Failing in their efforts to buy adjoining properties, the town authorities have started condemnation proceedings to acquire lots for enlarging and improving the local cemetery.

Commissioners Harrison, Godwin, Green and Griffin were present for the meeting.

A bill for \$150 for listing town property was approved.

Boy Again Facing Court For Forgery

Sentenced to prison for three years for alleged forgery and later placed on probation by Judge J. Paul Frizzelle in the Martin County Superior court last March, Ben Holland, young white man, is again facing the court on a similar charge.

Alleged to have forged the name of G. H. Harrison to an eight dollar check, the boy attempted to pass the instrument at the Martin Supply Company last Saturday. The management became suspicious and it was learned the check had been forged. Arrested by Officer J. H. Allsbrooks that afternoon, Holland maintained he found the check. Probable cause of guilt was found and he was bound over by Justice J. L. Hassell under a \$300 bond for trial in the superior court next month. Unable to raise the amount, Holland was placed in jail.

The youth was placed on probation about six weeks ago on condition that he pay three checks he was alleged to have forged and remain of good behavior.

War As It Relates To Home Front Is Reviewed For Week

Swollen Prices Absorb a Big Part of Money Raised For War Purposes

Uncle Sam paid a bill of 31 billion dollars in the first World War to crush German imperialism and drive Kaiser Wilhelm into exile. Thirteen and a half billions of that, it has been estimated, was wasted on swollen prices—never went to hold a line or storm a trench. That was inflation old style.

Already in this war advancing prices have padded the bill by 35 billions, or more than the total cost of the last one. And at the rate they were mounting they would have increased the cost by two-and-a-half billions every month that went by, two-and-a-half billions which would have bought 25,000 pursuit planes, 35,000 medium tanks, or 1,500,000 heavy machine guns. And the cost of living was mounting steadily, too.

Such a situation obviously called for action. Last week's order from the Office of Price Administration throwing virtually all prices and rents—with specified exceptions—under a ceiling for the duration was that action. The High Cost of Living no longer was a vague threat—it had become grim reality. As Price Administrator Leon Henderson commented:

"This measure is one which the American people know to be necessary. It is, after all, the citizen's charter of security against rising living costs and it will be so recognized. Therefore, I know every citizen will look upon this program as his own and will do his part to make it work."

Touches Lives of All The General Maximum Price Regulation is the most drastic, the most far-reaching step ever taken to control the American economy. It touches the lives of almost every manufacturer, wholesaler, retailer, consumer, landlord and tenant.

The price order means that a retailer who may have restocked his shelves at high rates must seek relief from the wholesaler and so on down the line to the seller of basic materials. This is what the trade calls "rolling back the squeeze." If the "squeeze" cannot be "rolled back" voluntarily, the OPA stands ready to step in.

The regulation is expected to mobilize our economic resources for victory just as the Selective Service (Continued on page six)

Registrations For Sugar Progressing Rapidly in County

Little Evidence of Hoarding Uncovered in County To Date

Complaining little or none at all, several thousand Martin County citizens reported to the several registration places yesterday for their sugar rationing cards. No detailed report on the registration could be had immediately, but it measured up to expectations and surpassed predictions in a few instances. Two districts, Williams and Smithwicks, both colored, exhausted their four-day supply of cards the first day and called for more. Today the registration is advancing rapidly at possibly a faster clip than it did yesterday, clearly indicating that the bitter taste of rationing will be delayed as long as possible.

Maintaining headquarters in the high school gymnasium, the white registrants for this district signed up 863 consumers yesterday. The colored school here handled 763 registrants. Hassell registered 125 consumers yesterday, reports from other parts of the county stating that the registrars were kept busy during the day.

Little evidence of hoarding has been brought to light so far in the county, and in those cases where fairly large amounts of sugar were on hand it was a matter of customary buying in large quantities rather than hoarding. One rationing card (Continued on page six)

CALL FOR HELP

An urgent call for volunteer aircraft spotters was issued today by County Civilian Defense Chairman Hugh G. Horton for the Williamston post. Hugh Sprull has been handling the task alone at the river for several months and the task is proving too much for one man, and he must have relief.

It is likely that the observation post will be moved and located on top of some building up town and that the volunteers will be asked to maintain watches of a few hours each. Men, women, girls and boys over sixteen years of age can handle the work. Volunteers are urged to contact Chairman Horton immediately.

Million Dollar Increase In County Tax Values

Commissioners Will Invest Sinking Fund In U. S. War Bonds

Reduction in Tax Rate Based On Increase in Values Is Fairly Apparent

An increase of nearly a million dollars in assessed county property values was reported by Supervisor C. D. Carstarphen to the board of commissioners in regular session here yesterday, the gain apparently ranking close to an all-time record for those years when no revaluation was effected. The increase, subject to minor corrections, of course, was tentatively fixed at \$911,970, the tax supervisor explaining that most of the gain is traceable to personal property listings.

Soon after the preliminary report was submitted, the commissioners reached for their pencils and started figuring the possible effect the gain in values would have on the tax rate. Based on the 1941-1942 budget figures and on the listings not yet reported by the corporations, the new tax rate can be reduced about eight cents as a result of the marked increase in property values. But, the tax picture is not near complete. The new budget figures are subject to vary and it is very likely they will vary, and vary upward. And then there are the corporation listings to be considered. The trend in corporation values, as a whole, has been slightly downward in past years, and with a loss in that quarter and with even a slight increase in the new budget figures the gain based on an increase in property values will be offset or, at least, materially reduced.

The gain in values is almost phenomenal and especially is that true when one considers that all farm crops held by their owners on last January 1st were not taxable. Had those items been continued in the taxable list, the gain, it is fairly certain, would have been well over a million dollars. The commissioners, recognizing the increase as a pleasant subject, discussed the underlying factors at length. Commissioner C. A. Roberson expressed the theory that the psychological mood at listing time had its effect. "Property owners, making a little money last fall, were more liberal in listing their holdings," he explained. Supervisor Carstarphen explained that much personal property heretofore escaping taxation had been placed on the books, especially in some of the townships. With favorable tobacco prices, farmers and others, too, bought more cars last fall, and the car owner is being taken for his usual tax ride. Hog prices were higher and poultry accounted for approximately \$25,000 of the gain.

The pleasant discussion subject soon faded into the background, and the commissioners were again scratching their heads. Will automobiles be wiped from the tax books by the rationing system? the commissioners wondered. What about the general trend in business in the non-defense areas? was another question of the many asked and pondered over by the commissioners. And the tax subject was dropped to await further consideration when the budget figures are submitted about July or August.

Advised that a few property owners had failed to come forward and list in accordance with the law, the commissioners ordered all delinquent listers cited to the grand jury for possible court action. If a property owner's name is not on the list it will be just too bad for him. There is no way just now to get his name on the list, and when it goes before the courts he will be required to list his property, pay all taxes due and the court costs or go to the roads. The books will be checked for delinquents possibly by the time the (Continued on page six)

Wanderer Detained In the County's Jail

Arrested last Saturday as a suspicious character, Toofie G. Maloof is being held in the county jail pending an investigation. About 25 years of age, the wanderer was in rags and so filthy that Sheriff C. B. Roebuck ran him through a shower and bought clean clothes for him before the jail was opened to him.

Maloof, his nationality not definitely established, said that he deserted from the army, that he was returned and served a sentence and later given a dishonorable discharge. Traveling out of Florida, Maloof would not say or did not where he was going. It is understood that he had been detained in Craven County for a short time, but that for the past several months or since last December he had wandered here and there, living in woods and on what he could find or beg. He declared that he had not slept inside a house since last December.

British Take Over French Madagascar For Gain Over Japs

Russia, Not Germany, Starts Strong Offensive on the Eastern Front

After standing idly by, possibly unable to do otherwise, the British took the initiative in the war yesterday when they occupied the big French island of Madagascar, strategic point in Allied shipping lanes in the Indian Ocean. The full meaning of the move is yet to be determined, but it is fairly well established now that if the German dominated government at Vichy offers a vigorous protest, it may lead to a complete breakdown in American-French relations. The United States government has warned Vichy of its stand, but it is fairly certain that no American troops or Free French participated in the occupation.

Late reports from Madagascar state that the French are offering resistance, but apparently the defense is negligible. A French destroyer was sunk along with another French ship but the British are pushing on toward their objective. Vichy is to announce its stand on the Madagascar drive late today. The landing was effected on the north side of the island under the protection of British air forces and are now moving on the big naval base of Diego Suarez, ten miles away.

It had been well established before the British started to occupy the strategic island that the Japs were making ready to take it over either by assault or through Vichy. The island will be held in trust by the Allied Nations for France.

While the British were scoring in the war effort at Madagascar, the Japs continued their drive into China and toward India through Burma. The Japs, traveling north, have already crossed the Chinese border, late reports stating that they were reforming their lines three miles within the boundary. The advance lines may be going forward, but the rear of the Jap army is being subjected to murderous attacks by American bombers. Smashing attacks have also been directed against the Japs by American and Australian airmen.

In the European arena, Germany is being battered by the Soviets in the East and at home by the Royal Air Force. The British airmen during the past three days have been spreading new destruction on German industrial centers, the drive including an attack on the huge munitions factory in Czechoslovakia. Today, raids are going on over the French invasion coast with marked effect.

There is much talk now being heard about a 20,000-unit air attack on Germany, one militarily stating that such an attack is possible and that it would bring Germany to her knees over night. Even with 1,000 bombers, working nightly over Germany, could bring Germany to sensible peace terms by early fall, the militarist added.

On the Russian front it now appears that the spring drive has been reversed, and instead of Germany starting a spring offensive it would appear that Hitler and his gang are (Continued on page six)

Well Known County Citizen Died Near Jamesville Sunday

Funeral Services Were Held On Monday at the Home For H. Blount Ange

Funeral services were conducted yesterday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock for Mr. H. Blount Ange, respected citizen of Jamesville Township who died at his home there last Sunday.

Rev. Duffy Taylor, and Rev. D. A. Windham conducted the last rites. Interment was in the Ange Cemetery, near the home.

Mr. Ange had been in declining health for several years, and had been unusually feeble following a critical illness of about six months ago. He suffered a stroke of paralysis and that with diabetes and complications caused his death.

The son of the late M. C. and Harriet Ann Davis Ange, he was born in Jamesville Township 75 years ago. He lived there all his life, engaging in farming and living a simple but Christian life. He was held in high esteem by all who knew him, and he was respected by those in all walks of life. He was a member of the Mt. Olive Free Will Baptist Church in Washington County for a long number of years.

He lived at the place of his birth all his life, playing the role of a friend to all who passed his way.

In early manhood he was married to Miss Martha E. Mizelle and she survives with the following children, Messrs. Andrew Ange, of Washington County; Wilmer Ange, Bonnie Ange, David Ange, Mrs. Bertha Ange and Miss Vannie Ange, all of Jamesville, and Mrs. Annie Williams, of Scotland Neck. He also leaves two brothers, Messrs. S. J. Ange, of Jamesville, and Guilford Ange of Poplar Point.