

## Rationing of Tires in County Relieved By Emergency Reserve

### Twenty-nine New Truck Tires And Tubes Are Allotted To One Operator

The aggravated tire rationing system in this county was relieved, partly at least, this week when the county board called on the Federal Emergency Reserve for a number of tires. Literally swamped with demands, urgent demands for tires and tubes, the board was about ready to throw up its hands. The tire situation was bad enough and when the gas situation mixed with the sugar situation, the work was just too much but there was some relief to be had when the emergency reserve came to its rescue.

Hauling workers to war camps, the Martin County Transfer Company, Robersonville, was allotted twenty-nine new truck tires and 29 new truck tire tubes by a special order from the government. The allotment is not chargeable to the county quota, and Mr. Charles Carraway, manager of the transfer company, told the board members that they need not look for him any more right away. Operating an extensive transfer system, the transfer company had been a frequent visitor before the board.

Tires and tubes were allotted to the following:

N. W. Worsley, Oak City mail carrier, tire and tube.

Two obsolete tires and tubes were allotted F. C. Williams, Jamesville.

Two trailer tires and tubes were allotted Rufus Lynch, Hassell, for farm use.

Retreaded truck tires were allotted, as follows:

Willie Boston, Jamesville, two tires and four tubes for hauling pulp wood.

J. M. Highsmith, Robersonville, two tires and tubes for farm use.

Rogerson Brothers, Robersonville, two tires and tubes for distributing meal.

Mrs. Noah J. Corey, Williamston RFD 1, two tires for hauling farm supplies.

Frank F. Carstarphen, Williamston, one tire for hauling fuel.

J. H. Harrison, Williamston RFD 1, one truck tire for farm use.

Martin County Board of Education, fourteen tires.

Recapped tires were allotted for cars, as follows:

P. C. Edmondson, Hassell, three tires and three tubes for farming.

Clyde Waters, Williamston, four tires for WPA defense work.

Jack Everett, Parmele, two tires and tubes for distributing patent medicines.

New truck tires were allotted:

E. M. Taylor, Williamston, two truck tires and tubes for hauling produce.

John A. Manning, Williamston, one truck tire and tube for hauling lumber and fertilizer.

Harvey Roberson, Robersonville, four tires and four tubes for hauling gas and oil.

J. B. Parker, Robersonville RFD 1, two trailer tires for farm use.

M. E. Rogers, Williamston RFD 3, was allotted a tube for a tractor tire.

A request filed by G. F. Fitzgerald, Jr., auxiliary fireman, for two recapped tires, was rejected.

A request for a new car by F. F. Pollard, farmer, was rejected.

Up until recently the board could not issue tubes when allotting purchase certificates for recapped tires. Under a new ruling the board may issue tubes along with retreaded tires.

The following applications were rejected:

J. E. Parrisher, Robersonville.

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## High School Band To March Thursday

The Williamston High School's smooth-working drill band will present its final marching program of the season on Main Street Thursday night at 8:00 o'clock. The organization has received much favorable comment on its recent appearances, and is in receipt of a letter from the parade chairman of the Raleigh Sesquicentennial commending them for their fine performance in Raleigh on April 30th. The band presented a fine program for the Home Demonstration convention here last Friday, but due to the competition of the free lunch much of the effort seemed to have been in vain.

With this tune-up program behind them the band members are working diligently this week in order to polish up their series of drills and music for the Thursday performance.

The program will last approximately a half hour, and will include drills and some extra music which will be played in front of the post office building. Head Drum Major-ette Della Jane Mobley will be in charge, supported by Mary Warren, Sylvia Green, Rose Leggett and that new twirling discovery, Bill Peele. In case of continued rain the program will be shifted to Friday night at the same time. The final appearance of the band will be May 31st in concert on the high school lawn.

## "X" Cards Liberal With Gas But Limit Types Of Travel

The general belief that an X-type of card entitles one to three extra gallons of gasoline for pleasure riding under the rationing system has been knocked into a cocked hat by reliable information coming from high rationing officials. While it may not appear fair, the rationing system does not allow the business car operator much leeway, any many X card owners have already done so or are considering exchanging them for the A cards.

Information, coming direct from a high rationing official to the board in this county yesterday, stated definitely that the X cards while allowing the holders unlimited gas allotments did not provide for travel other than that designated in the application. The regulations, appearing just above the penalty provision, state that all or substantially all of the gas allowed under the X type cards must be used for the purpose

designated. Very few definite cases were mentioned, but it is understood that the holder of an X card may take his children to school when it is raining, go places in an emergency, and possibly drive to church, but under the regulations as they now stand he is violating the law when he drives his car strictly for pleasure. Any person with an X card and whose activities designated by classification do not constitute all or substantially all of his driving then it will be to his advantage, certainly in the eyes of the law, to exchange the card for one in another classification preferably for an A card if he can operate on 21 gallons of gas between now and June 30. The holder of an A card has the right to drive where he pleases as long as the supply lasts, and the B card holder may use his car for pleasure, but when he does so he rules himself ineligible for a supplementary card.

### HERE AND THERE



Recently graduated by the Army Air Corps in Texas, Chas. Daniels, Jr., Martin County youth, was married in New Jersey last week and yesterday his parents received a cablegram stating he was in England. He is believed to be the first Martin County youth to fly the Atlantic.

## Willie Ross Is Victim Hit-and-Run Driver Here Last Saturday

### Officers Said To Be Closing In On Driver By Checking Old Car Registration

Willie Ross, young county white man of the Hassell area, was badly but not believed critically hurt when he was run down by a hit-and-run driver on West Main Street, near the Brown Community Hospital, last Saturday night about 8:20 o'clock. Walking on the edge of the highway with his father, the young man was struck from the rear by an old-model car, suffering a severe injury on the back of his head. One of his legs was badly skinned and one of his shoes was torn from his foot and knocked several feet up an embankment.

Picked up and carried into the hospital, Ross was given immediate treatment by Dr. V. E. Brown who left a sick bed to answer the call. Ross, said to be recovering rapidly, was reported to be resting very well today.

Called to the scene of the accident Highway Patrolmen Thompson and Saunders combed miles of highways in the county in search of the criminal. Several leads were established and it is believed that the case will be "broken" sooner or later. Stopping their search on the highways and by-ways, the officers started checking the registration of old cars and last reports stated that they had narrowed the list down considerably and that numbers of old cars had been checked. "We believe we are on the right track and some action is to be expected just as soon as we are better satisfied that we have sufficient evidence to support our charges," an officer was quoted as saying this morning.

Young Ross, a worker in the Navy

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### EXTRA CARDS

Not certain how they are supposed to handle the task, the gasoline rationing board in this county has issued no supplementary cards. Several applications have already been filed, but no issuance has yet been scheduled. Instructions are being awaited from Raleigh, Chairman Martin said yesterday.

The man who uses more gas than his card allows for his regular business is entitled to a supplementary card. He must file a special application, showing mileage estimates certified by his employer and signed and sworn to before a notary public by the applicant.

## Prominent Farmer Ends His Life In County On Sunday

### Funeral Services Held Monday Afternoon For Dave Griffin

Dave Griffin, prominent county farmer and substantial citizen of Griffins Township, ended his life at the home of his brother, George C. Griffin, last Sunday afternoon. No note was left and no reason could be given for the tragedy which is steeped in mystery. Relatives and friends could not advance a single underlying cause to support the act which came as a marked shock to members of his family and a host of friends throughout this section. The loss of a child a few years ago had affected Mr. Griffin greatly and it is possible that he was a victim of melancholia, but any troubles he may have had he kept to himself.

In his home he was a thoughtful husband and father, and only recently modernized his home, installing lights and making alterations. His business dealings were based on Christian ideals, and while he was not rich he had ample means to provide well for his family, meet all of his obligations and have plenty to spare. His relations with his fellowmen were congenial and friendly, and for a number of years he was active in and a loyal and liberal supporter of the Primitive Baptist Church at Smithwicks Creek. His family life was ideal and he was highly respected by all who knew him. He held no malice toward anyone, and he apparently enjoyed his work and the fellowship of his fellowmen. All of this merely aggravated the mystery surrounding the tragedy.

Just recently he had made plans to attend a church meeting a few weeks from now, leading the family to believe that the act was conceived on the spur of the moment.

Sunday afternoon he accompanied his family to the old home place to visit his sister. While they were walking around the yard, Mr. Griffin stepped over to his brother's home, a short distance away. Finding no one there, he took a shotgun and found the lone shell on the place in a bureau drawer. He went to the woodshed, pulled his hat off and hung it up, removed his coat and carefully placed it on a basket. Sitting down he placed the gun barrel against his neck and pushed the trigger with a broken broom stick. It is believed that he shot himself about 3:00 o'clock that afternoon. His brother, returning home later that afternoon found the body about 6 o'clock. He was the third brother to end his life, and the others like this one are still steeped in mystery.

Mr. Griffin was the son of the late Simon Daniel and Margaret

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## Man Arrested For Possessing Liquor

Riding through the Free Union section of Jamesville Township last Saturday, Officers Roebuck and Roebuck happened to see a man dart into a barn and rapidly close the door behind him. The officers, looking after other business, became suspicious and investigated. They found Abraham Pierce in the barn with a ten gallon keg partly filled with illicit liquor. He admitted his guilt and was scheduled for trial in the county court next Monday.

Extending their search on the premises, the officers found about fifteen pounds of new sheet copper, the scrapings from a liquor plant manufacturing outfit. Pierce maintained that the copper belonged to James Keys and that Keys was serving in the army. The copper, while looking quite new, was supposed to have been left on the Pierce premises some time ago. Officers state they have no idea where the now precious metal can be obtained by illicit liquor manufacturers, but they seem to get it along with sugar despite rationing.

## Faithful Democrats In Convention Here Last Saturday Noon

### Group Endorses Policies and Achievements of Roosevelt Administration

The Martin County Democratic convention, attended by the faithful few, was called to order last Saturday at noon in the courthouse by Elbert S. Peel, Chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee. Elbert S. Peel was elected permanent chairman of the convention and Paul D. Roberson was elected permanent secretary of the convention. The precinct organization was perfected as follows:

Jamesville, A. Corey, chairman; C. B. Martin, Stancill Brown, F. W. Holliday and C. W. Mizell; Williams, Joshua L. Coltrain, chairman; W. W. Griffin, Mrs. R. J. Harrison and S. J. Tetterton; Griffins, Plenny Peel, chairman; C. C. Coltrain, Mrs. J. Eason Lilley, George C. Griffin and W. T. Roberson; Bear Grass, J. D. Wynne, chairman; Mrs. Dewey Leggett, Leroy Harrison, T. L. Roberson and Gomer Harrison; Williamston No. 1, C. B. Roebuck, chairman; J. Sam Gotsinger, Miss Clyde Hassell, C. H. Godwin, Sr. and S. C. Griffin; Williamston No. 2, H. G. Horton, chairman; C. D. Carstarphen, Iverson Skinner, C. H. Godwin, Jr., and Mrs. E. S. Peel; Cross Roads, J. S. Ayers, chairman; Mrs. V. G. Taylor, D. C. Peel, W. L. Ausborn and H. L. Roebuck; Robersonville, A. E. James, chairman; A. M. Hasty, J. A. James, Paul D. Roberson and Mrs. W. H. Gray; Gold Point, J. R. Winslow, chairman; H. H. Roberson, Henry Johnson, J. L. Croom and P. T. Edmondson; Poplar Point, W. S. White, chairman; L. H. Taylor, W. S. Leggett, Herman Harrison, Mayo Harrison, Hamilton, L. R. Everett, chairman; Miss Effie Waldo, W. J. Beach, K. B. Etheridge, and R. A. Edmondson; Hassell, John W. Eubanks, chairman; R. T. Johnson, Woodrow Purvis, D. R. Edmondson and E. R. Edmondson; Goose Nest, J. F. Crisp, chairman; N. W. Johnson, J. R. Perry, N. M. Hyman, Jack Smith and J. B. Whitfield.

The Democratic Executive Committee of Martin County was elected as follows: A. Corey, Joshua L. Coltrain, Plenny Peel, J. D. Wynne, C. B. Roebuck, H. G. Horton, J. S. Ayers, A. E. James, J. R. Winslow, W. S. White, L. R. Everett, John W. Eubanks and J. F. Crisp.

Elbert S. Peel was elected chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee and Mrs. Sallie Jones was elected vice chairman, and H. G. Horton was elected secretary. The convention endorsed H. G. Horton as its candidate for member of the State Democratic Executive Committee, A. E. James as its candidate for the Congressional Committee, J. C. Smith as its candidate for member of the Judicial Committee, and T. B. Slade as its candidate for member of the Senatorial Committee.

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## Anti-Typhoid Drive Is Opened In County

Launching the annual anti-typhoid drive in this county yesterday, health authorities immunized 375 persons in the Jamesville clinic. The number reporting was a bit disappointing, but it is believed that the response to the call for safer health will be larger in the future as the drive progresses throughout the county according to a schedule previously announced by the department.

Many of the fathers are carrying their families to the clinics and dodge the immunization themselves, a report states. "This is to be regretted," Health Officer Williams said, explaining that the bread winner is the very one who should insure himself against the fever.

Every person in the county is urged to check the immunization schedule and attend the clinic nearest him.

### MAD HOUSE?

The rationing board office in the courthouse would have been reckoned as a mad house by an indifferent observer yesterday when tires, gas and sugar got all mixed up in the conservations and as large numbers crowded into the little room to see about this card, that card, sugar for preserving, sugar for retail, sugar card surrenders and transfers, tubes, recapped and new tires and above all—gas.

Motorists who had misplaced their registration cards and could not find them in time for the regular registration and a few others seeking supplementary cards squeezed into the little office along with the sugar and tire folks and it was a general mixture of gas, sugar and tires for a while. Board chairman called the board to order and centered attention on the tire rationing, but there were frequent interruptions and after six o'clock the board members emerged from their room without having pulled all the hair from their heads.

## Registration For Gas Just About Complete

### Registration Flaws Apparent in First Unofficial Reports

#### Over 2,600 Ration Cards Are Distributed in Past Few Days

The first round of the gasoline rationing is just about complete, according to unofficial reports coming out of the rationing board office here yesterday. And what a mess the rationing board is facing the average person will possibly never know.

Preliminary reports, admittedly not accurate to the last figure because of late registrations and an exchange in cards, indicate that the registration is packed with flaws. These flaws are not chargeable to the registrars in every case or even in a small number of cases for the forms were sworn to by the applicants, and there was little that the registrars could or would do. There is earnest talk in the high places supporting the belief that something is going to be done about it, and that someone is in for some tough traveling.

Without saying that a single claim is unfounded, one can say that the registration in Robersonville is possibly the most representative of the true meaning and purpose of the rationing plan. In the group of figures below the Robersonville registration stands out, and in pointing out there is no reflection cast upon the other registration centers where the registrars and volunteers pleaded with sweat rolling down their faces and disgust in their hearts for a representative registration. Each group of figures are standing on their own with the possible exception of the "X" group in Williamston where the public officials are more numerous. Local, county, state and federal workers boosted the total. No accurate check could be had, but it is so fairly apparent that some of the other registration centers placed trucks in the "X" class when it was not necessary to register and ration those types of vehicles at all.

The gas rationing plan produced a new crop of colored preachers, or at least the system brought them to the surface. As many as eight were counted in one small district, and the check was not completed.

Parmele is a business town as far as the colored population is concerned. Not a single pleasure card was listed, but the little community had its "X" claimants.

Few boats were included in the registration list, but Register Martin counted one out at Farm Life. Just a few motorcycles were registered.

A tabulation of the registration, showing the issuance of the various types of cards by registration centers, including three held in colored centers follows:

	A	B-1	B-2	B-3	X
J'ville, w	17	29	36	78	4
J'ville, c	16	2	4	10	12
Farm Life	6	12	55	114	18
Bear Grass	34	32	45	76	4
W'ston, w	153	55	96	373	103
W'ston, c	105	6	6	20	25
R'ville	232	94	68	225	24
Parmele, c	0	4	2	7	2
Oak City	111	42	53	158	25

There were 2,595 vehicles registered during the regular registration according to a preliminary report released by the rationing board. The registration by districts follows: Jamesville, 208; Farm Life, 205; Bear Grass, 191; Williamston, 942; Robersonville, 660; Oak City, 389.

The registration in the Williamston colored school included nine trucks, one boat and two funeral coaches.

## Church Women Will Hold Meeting Here

The annual get-together meeting of the women of the eighth district, Diocese of East Carolina, will be held in the Church of the Advent on Wednesday of this week. The meeting will open with a celebration of the Holy Communion at 10:30 a. m. The business meeting will follow immediately.

Mrs. Stephen Norfleet of Kelford, is chairman of the district, which is made up of the Episcopal churches in Bertie and Martin Counties. Miss Stella Phelps, of Woodville, is secretary. The theme of the meeting is "The Place of the Woman's Auxiliary in National Defense." Some of the speakers on the program are: Mrs. Harry G. Walker, Washington; Mrs. Frank F. Fagan, New Bern; Captain Robert Olton, Chaplain of the U. S. Marine Corps, New River; Mrs. James G. Staton and Mrs. John Hardy.

Lunch will be served on the church lawn following the adjournment of the meeting.

Attendants are expected from Roxobel, Woodville, Windsor, Avoca, Hamilton, Robersonville, and Jamesville.

### GRADUATED



Russell T. Roebuck, son of Sheriff and Mrs. C. B. Roebuck, was graduated a week ago today from the United States Naval Reserve Midshipman School in New York with honors. Among his classmates was Wendell Wilkie's son. Ensign Roebuck is to report for duty next week.

## Calling More Men From County For Service In Army

### Induction Orders Have Been Delivered To Number Of Selectees

Induction orders have been issued for a number of Martin County colored men to report for possible service in the armed forces within the near future, an unofficial report heard just recently stating that other calls are pending and that large numbers of men are to report to the induction centers between now and the latter part of next month.

It is believed that many of the next group of men to leave the county will be rejected for one reason or another. It is understood that none of them has had complete physical examinations and that some of the group will hardly measure up to educational standards.

The names of the colored men instructed to report follow:

James Edward Smithwick, RFD 3, Williamston.

Charles Edward Hill, Jamesville.

Calvin Sharp, Oak City and Roxobel.

Lorenza Council, Jr., RFD 1, Bethel.

King Limuel Council, Oak City.

John Thomas Rhodes, RFD 1, Jamesville.

Randolph Taylor, RFD 2, Robersonville.

Abraham Jones, Williamston.

Percy Tyner, RFD 2, Williamston.

Geo. Daniel Lynch, RFD 1, Oak City.

Julian Smith, Dardens.

Jesse Barfield, RFD 1, Oak City.

Octavious Daniel, Williamston.

Robert Mitchell, Williamston and Elizabeth City.

Fate Little, Robersonville.

Aulander Brown, Robersonville.

Charlie Collins, Oak City and Newport News.

Octavious Staton, RFD 1, Oak City.

Isaiah Short, Robersonville.

Joseph Carr Ebron, Robersonville.

It was reported a few days ago that the Draft Board had received orders to materially increase the number of men going to the induction centers. According to reliable information, the board was asked where it was possible to do so to send extra men that were available. The next two calls were not increased because the board did not have extra men available and did not have time to complete necessary tests.

### STILL RIDING

There may have been a decrease in motor traffic in this part of the county last Sunday, but there was quite a bit of riding still going on in some of the streets. Holding his porch seat down for an hour, a main street resident counted 237 cars as they moved in front of his home during one hour that afternoon.

While all the riding was in progress the riders did not think about the supply being nearly exhausted in the east. Only a few gallons were in certain company storage tanks and very little in others in this part of the county. Had it been necessary to evacuate the coastal areas, there would not have been enough gas to get the travelers through this section. Some of the distributors have replenished their supplies, but other tanks are still almost empty.

## Germans Jittery As Soviets And A.E.F. Offer New Problem

### Many Days Required To Unload Largest Convoy In History At Irish Port

Battered and bleeding on the Eastern Front around Kharkov and with the opening of a new and second front in the offing, Hitler is suffering from a severe case of the jitters. However, it would only be wishful thinking that Hitler is whipped for Germany is still a power in this world. Recent reports from the war arena would indicate, however, that the tide is beginning to turn, that now is the time for the Allies to fight all the harder and push on toward complete victory.

Activities in the Kharkov area hold the spotlight in the war today as comparative quietness obtains in the Pacific. A million strong, the Russian forces, equipped with American and British tanks and other armaments, are pushing the invaders back in and around the base that is so important to the German cause. Death and destruction are approaching new high figures as millions of men meet with matched machines of modern warfare. The Germans are said to have lost 339 planes as compared with a few over 100 for the Russians during the past few days in the Kharkov sector.

Reinforced tank corps are counter-attacking strongly in some sectors of the Kharkov front, but the Russian assault army estimated at 1,000,000 men is steam-rolling over all resistance and advancing everywhere, the Soviet high command announced today.

(The Russians have a superiority on the Kharkov front of five or six to one—a regiment for every German battalion—according to a United Press dispatch from Stockholm, quoting Swedish correspondents in Berlin. The Russians are using artillery up to 21-centimeters—eight inches—are are attack in wave after wave, creating the most critical situation at some points, the Swedish Berlin correspondents reported. Counter-attacks, led mostly by Rumanian troops and including many teen-age German lads, have been repulsed by the determined Russian forces. Late reports indicate that the fierce battle, possibly one of the most furious of the war, is proving costly to both sides in human life and equipment.

Down in the Crimea, the Germans hold an advantage in gains, but fierce fighting continues in the city of Kerch.

While the Russians are fighting a life and death fight in the East, there are growing signs of invasion plans in the West. The United States in recent days landed one of the largest forces ever moved across any ocean. Days and days were required to unload the ships at an Irish port, one report declaring that tanks and other equipment rolled off the ships in steady streams day and night for about a week. The thousands of troops, equipped and ready for action, were preceded by powerful contingents last February and March. It is now reasonable to believe that a second front will be created somewhere, the date and place being about the only policies yet to be determined. Hitler, jittery and more'n likely disappointed in the recent trend of events, is moving more men into Norway where he apparently is anticipating trouble and more trouble.

On the other side of the world, suffering and bleeding China is calling for help. Weary under the weight of long years of battering at the hands of the Japs, the Chinese continue to fight gallantly, but the Japs are striking hard from Burma and across conquered provinces.

The British are blasting Jap positions as the enemy moves nearer India.

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## Bible School Opens Term Here Monday

The Union Vacation Bible School got underway on Monday morning with 18 beginners and five helpers at the Episcopal Church; 38 primaries and 6 helpers at the Methodist church; 68 juniors and five helpers at the Baptist Church; and 21 intermediates and one helper at the Christian Church. The handcraft workers met the girls at the Presbyterian Church where plans were made to devote the first week of activity in preparing useful items for the Brown Community Hospital. The boys met in the Manual Arts building at the high school where materials were selected for the several projects chosen by them will be made. The girls handcraft work will be under the supervision of Miss Madge Glazner and a number of Home Economics students, while the boys will be led by Mr. T. B. Brandon, Martin County Agent.

The first day showed an enrollment of 135 pupils and 25 helpers, making a total of 160 in the school. The primary children will be moved from the Methodist Church to the American Legion building in order that they might have more room. With the prospect of a still larger enrollment, the school is in need of several more workers.