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Recognize Work Of County Draft Board At Meeting Friday

Public Expresses Appreciation to Officials at Dinner in Legion Hut

Representing the general public, sixty-five Martin County citizens recognized the work of and expressed their confidence in and appreciation to the members of the Martin County Draft Board at a dinner sponsored by the John Walton Hassell Post of the American Legion in the hut here last Friday evening. The work of the first World War Draft Board was fittingly recognized even though the recognition was given belatedly.

Dr. John D. Biggs, master of ceremonies, arranged an interesting program which briefly reviewed some of the board's problems and brought forth an expression of appreciation for and confidence in the acts handled by the draft officials. Draft Board Members R. H. Goodman and J. H. Ayers and Marion Cobb, secretary, were present. Dr. Jesse Ward, a third member of the board, was unable to attend. Dr. John D. Biggs, member; Mayor John L. Hassell, secretary, and Mrs. S. R. Biggs and Mrs. J. S. Rhodes, clerks, represented the World War I board. Mr. Walter Salisbury, a member of the old board, was not present, and the meeting stood in silent tribute to the memory of the late Dr. W. E. Warren who worked with the old board.

Dr. J. S. Rhodes, examining physician, was also recognized, and he recalled that he examined the first man, Leonard Bennett, to enter World War I from this county a quarter of a century ago. When called upon to render his services in this war, Dr. Rhodes accepted the task. At that time he had two assistants in his office and he anticipated the partnership with his son within a few months. One of his assistants and his son are already in the Army and the other former assistant is just before entering, but the doctor, ignoring his own work and practice, continues at the task, giving of his valuable time without remuneration or hope of reward.

Attorney E. S. Peel addressed the group briefly, pointing out that the draft officials had a thankless task. Recalling the activities of the World War I draft board, Mayor Hassell stated that 1,738 men between the ages of 21 and 31 registered in the county, that out of approximately 500 men called for service only one failed to answer the roll call at the railroad station. "This county had its dark days then as well as now. It looked as if Germany would conquer the world in 1917. There was no rationing board then, and prices went sky high. They talked about rationing sugar, but the price of the sweetening went above 30 cents a pound. We had meatless, heatless and wheatless days," the former draft official said. Continuing he declared that we have the finest fighting force in the world, but that force cannot function properly unless there is support on the home front. "We must scrap every old kettle, work harder and buy bonds to add power to those forces. We have got to get away from the idea of running to the rationing board for gas and tires. We have got to recognize the need for higher taxes. We must not let the service man down. We must whip the Axis to their knees. And let us hope that when peace is written there'll be power behind it."

Wheeler Martin, member of the (Continued on page six)

Court Ends Term Late Last Friday

Judge R. D. Dixon ended a special term of the Martin County Superior Court here last Friday afternoon after spending considerable time trying a \$15,000 alienation of affections suit. Brought by Jas. R. Griffin against J. L. Ross, the \$15,000 case was thrown out when Judge Dixon ruled that the evidence was not sufficient to support the allegation. Notice of appeal was given immediately by the plaintiff's counsel. In a second case, Griffin was suing his father-in-law for \$90 allegedly due him for work. Ross filed a counter claim for \$150 alleged due him. The jury decided that neither was entitled to recover anything. In setting aside a deed in the case of A. L. Mizelle against Gilbert Rogerson, the court ruled that the plaintiff was to pay the defendant \$135 and that the defendant was to pay the case costs. An appeal was noted in the case. A referee is to be named to hear the evidence in the case of Luther Hardison against A. T. Whitley, the court ordering the plaintiff to give a \$700 supplemental injunction bond. No referee has yet been named.

FBI Agent Confers With Draft Board Officials

Special Agent C. G. of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Charlotte office, conferred with local draft board officials yesterday afternoon. The nature of the business discussed could not be learned immediately.

Draft Board Handles Few Reclassifications

RATION BOOKS

Preparatory to the introduction of a new war rationing book, all persons who did not register for sugar last April and who have not yet received their No. 1 book are directed to register at the rationing board office in Williamston not later than Tuesday, December 15. All persons who registered and have their sugar-coffee ration cards DO NOT have to register again. Most every one in this county has already registered, but in those few cases where excess sugar supplies were held and the individual did not register he is now directed to register and get his No. 1 card. It was pointed out that the No. 1 ration card will be exchanged for the No. 2 ration book to be distributed within a short time.

No new registration will be necessary, the board explaining that consumers will get a new book by surrendering their old ones. These ration books have nothing to do with gasoline or fuel.

"Old" Age Rules Out Ten Draftees In The County At One Time

Draft Board Awaits Definite Instructions for Handling 38-45 Age Group

Ready and "willing" to board a bus and go into the service of their country, ten Martin County draftees were ruled out on account of "old" age at the last minute this week. Orders to reject the men for military service were received too late to notify them before they reported here to board a bus to an Army induction center. None of the group, as far as it could be learned, was disappointed and several were said to have been really proud of their age.

The names of the ten men rejected are: C. D. Carstarphen, Chas. Moore, Jesse Amleak James, Wheeler Beach, Berry Bubble Wynne, John Leman McKeel, Paul McKeel, Joe Henry Bland, Charlie Reuben Harrell and Thomas Martin Whitaker. All of the other men, scheduled to answer the 32nd draft call, were present and made the trip to the induction center. No report on the physical examinations could be had early today and it is not known how many were accepted for service. Other than the instructions to reject men 38 years or older for active military service, the draft board in this county has not been advised of the procedure that will be followed in classifying the 38-45 age group. It has been reported that those men subject to call will be ushered into some essential work, including agriculture.

Just what effect the new age limit (Continued on page six)

Board Of Education In Meeting Monday

Meeting in regular session here yesterday morning, the members of the Martin County Board of Education declared a two weeks holiday for the white children and a somewhat shorter one for the colored, granted a short leave of absence for several teachers and discussed the possibility of continuing the operation of the school lunch rooms.

The Army and Navy are conducting a special two weeks institute at Chapel Hill beginning December 28 for representative teachers. Special courses in science, mathematics, physical education and health will be outlined with the possibility that they will be introduced into the high school curriculum as a cooperating factor in preparing youths for service later in the armed services.

The board is anticipating a baffling problem with the suspension of the WPA and the expected closing of the school lunch rooms. While they do not know if and when the lunch rooms will be closed, the board considered the possibility of holding them open through a cooperative plan.

ROUND-UP

After falling to a low figure during recent weeks, the number of drunks rounded up by local and county officers pushed toward a record figure last weekend. Fourteen arrests were made on Saturday and Sunday, including ten persons for being drunk, two for drunken driving, one for passing a worthless check and one for failing to support his family.

Four of the group were white persons, and none of them was under 23 years of age.

Deferment Based On Essential Farming Is Granted A Few Men

Draft Board To Hold Second Meeting Friday to Classify Teen-Age Youths

Faced with about sixty border-line cases, the Martin County Draft Board was in session here last night until almost twelve o'clock handling 31 reclassifications in the draft registration. So much time was necessary in handling about half of the number appealing for reclassification that the board did not classify any of the teen-age youths. A second meeting will be held Friday evening when the board plans to complete the reclassification of those in the old registrations and to classify several hundred in the teen-age group.

Several of the registrants were placed in deferred classifications under rules and regulations recognizing agricultural claims. The few registrants proved that fifty per cent of their cleared land was planted to essential crops, those establishing such claims having been placed in 3-C in cases where dependency figured and in 2-C where there was no dependency. Several registrants were reclassified in the 2-B list when they proved they were in some essential industry.

Names of the men, their addresses, race and classifications follow:

- Geo. Thomas Jones, c, Parmele, 1-A.
- Jesse Atkins, c, Jamesville, 2-B.
- Council Cornelius Smith, c, RFD 1, Oak City, classification pending.
- James Johnson, c, Everetts, 1-A.
- Raymond Robert Davis, w, RFD 1, Jamesville and Norfolk, 2-B.
- Willard W. Carson, w, Parmele, 2-A.
- Clyde Hubert Demary, c, RFD 3, Williamston and Preston, Md., classification pending.
- Ernest Cornelius Jones, w, Williamston, 1-A.
- Claude LeRoy Nelson, w, RFD 1, Oak City, classification pending.
- Archie Edwin Hardison, w, RFD 1, Jamesville, 1-A.
- John Richard Medford, w, RFD 1, Oak City, 2-C.
- William Roy Harden, w, RFD 1, Jamesville, 3-B.
- Jeff David Etheridge, w, Hamilton, 1-A.
- Joshua Floyd Ward, w, RFD 1, Williamston, 1-A.
- Conner Cowin, w, RFD 3, Williamston.

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Uncertainty Faces The Liquor Trade

Now that rationing is in effect, liquor consumers are greatly worried, many of them admitting that the allotment will not be enough to get them to jail. Registration places were crowded, some store towns reporting long lines leading to the centers. Many faces seen not so long ago in the relief lines were conspicuous in and around several registration centers, observers declared. There was some doubt if the store personnel could handle the registration, but after the 10th ration books will be issued only by the county board.

A marked drop in legal sales is expected, and that is what the manufacturers want. They explain that the five-year supply would be exhausted quickly, that only by rationing could it be made to last five years.

The illicit trade saw a "break" in the rationing order, but even that type of trade is facing a shortage of ingredients. Eyes are turning to the molasses supply, and some believe the illicit business will stage a limited comeback.

The illicit business hasn't disappeared as yet, rationing or no rationing. Last Friday, Officer J. H. Roebuck working with Pitt County ABC officers wrecked a gas drum still and poured out two barrels of beer in Hamilton Township.

Peanut Mart Much Stronger Locally

After holding at a point between 7 and 7.35 cents for weeks, the peanut market reflected a stronger price tone here yesterday and today, one report stating that the goobers were selling for a strong 7 1-2 cents and that there was a fairly great demand for the farmers' stock.

A five-cent premium was reported, placing the prices at 7.55 cents a pound for the best quality nuts.

Unofficial reports indicate that the size of the crop is not measuring up to expectations, that it is possible the supply will fall short of the demand. Deliveries on the local market have been comparatively light during the past few days, and unfavorable weather conditions have interrupted harvesting work throughout the territory.

War As It Relates To Home Front Is Reviewed For Week

Expanded War Fronts Placing Greater Strain on The Home Front

The scuttling of the French fleet at Toulon followed close on the Allied sweep across North Africa toward the last Axis footholds on that continent. With the northern shores of the Mediterranean exposed to possible invasion by the United Nations, Hitler poured his troops into Unoccupied France and withdrew part of his air force from Russia to bolster his threatened southern front—a defense movement that resulted in the practical extinction of the feeble Vichy Government and at the same time left Axis armies in Russia less prepared to meet powerful Russian offensives.

The United Nations move forward these days, but the great military operations in the Mediterranean area have placed a further strain on our economy at home. Not only must large quantities of military supplies go to our fighters, but the people in the lands which join the fight for freedom must be provided with many necessities of which they have been stripped by the Nazis—food products, cotton clothing, shoes, medical supplies, and even soap, matches and kerosene. And as the Allied arms release the impoverished and starving peoples of Europe, the resources of the United Nations will be taxed to the utmost to supply them with the essentials of life—a job on which depends the future peace and stability of the world.

Victory Hinges on Transportation

The deciding factor in war is neither the rate of production nor the total number of men in the armed forces, but the ability to transport materials and fighters to the scene of action. Our war output this year will reach the value of about \$55 billion, and the production rate has passed a monthly value of \$6,000,000,000, but while billions of dollars worth of war goods and weapons have gone overseas, we are far from reaching the peak of such deliveries. And so with fighting men, too—although we soon will have about a million overseas, this represents less than one-fifth of our armed strength. The heaviest responsibility for success on the battlefronts rests on our transportation systems, both internal and external. The hundreds of U. S. tanks and trucks now rolling across North Africa were carried by rail to the ports of embarkation and by ships across the Atlantic, and the raw materials that went together with the soldiers who man them. Ships and trains, too, transported the raw materials that made those tanks to the factories.

Military Traffic Skyrockets

Military traffic on the railroads has risen from a million a month six months ago, to more than a million (Continued on page three)

Rumor about Travel Without Foundation

The problem of transportation for men in the service, in addition to those wishing to visit relatives or friends during the holidays, will place an unprecedented strain upon the railroads and bus lines of this country.

Commenting on the situation this morning Mr. W. A. Banks, local agent for the Carolina Trailways and Norfolk Southern Bus Corporation, stated that he had not received any information in support of the rumor that the sale of tickets would be suspended on December 15th. "We will continue to sell tickets but they will be sold without priority to any person or persons," Mr. Banks said.

"We are better equipped to handle the local traffic than last year but when you get on the main lines patrons of the railroads and bus lines will run into congested conditions because of the through traffic," he stated.

UNFOUNDED

Rumors, completely unfounded, have been and are still being circulated in this and other counties about the meat rationing program. Quite a few farmers have been led to believe by some ill-informed parties that the government will require them to have a permit before they are allowed to kill their hogs, that the permit will cost two or three dollars. Farmers are being asked to voluntarily eat less meat or not more than two and one-half pounds per week. That is only a voluntary request, and all the other rumors are absolutely unfounded, and should be recognized as coming from ill-informed parties or direct from rotten Berlin.

The farmer does not have to have a permit. He may kill and pack just as much meat as he pleases. The government is only asking him to conserve his meat by eating a reasonable quantity and make the rest available to consumers.

Will Deliver Kerosene Allotments This Week

Distribution To Be Made From Seven Schools In County

Consumers Urged To Call For Coupons on Friday Afternoon or Saturday

Plans have been completed for the distribution of kerosene and fuel oil ration coupons in this county on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning of this week. Ration board employees and volunteers are working day and night in an effort to get the books ready, and by closing the office on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons to the general public, the employees, it is believed, can make all the rations ready for distribution.

The approximately 5,500 people who registered in the schools a short time ago are urged to follow instructions closely and make a special effort to get their coupons. The coupons will be distributed on Friday afternoon, December 11, between the hours of 1 and 5 o'clock, and on Saturday, December 12, between the hours of 9 a. m. and 1 p. m.

The coupons will be distributed by seven white schools. Every person, white or colored, whose post office address is Jamesville, including the RFD patrons, will report to the Jamesville school. Those whose post office address is Williamston will report to the high school gymnasium. Everetts residents will call for their coupons at Everetts. Those whose address is either Robersonville or Parmele will get their coupons at Robersonville. Those whose address is either Hassell or Bethel, RFD 1 for Martin County citizens, will call at the Hassell school. Those citizens living in Martin County and whose post office address is Oak City, RFD 1, Hobgood, or RFD 1, Palmyra, are instructed to call for their coupons at the Oak City School.

Only those registering for kerosene for lighting and heating, and for operating farm machinery, etc., will call at the designated places for their rationing coupons. Those who are applying for fuel oil for heating and for heating hot water will call for their coupons at the rationing board office in Williamston after next Monday.

The rationing board had hoped to distribute the coupons at the places of the original registration, but the schools, race and other information necessary to such a distribution were not listed on the applications.

In calling for the kerosene-fuel oil (Continued on page six)

Singers To Present Christmas Pageant

The glee clubs of the Williamston elementary and high schools will present a Christmas pageant, "And on Earth Peace," in the high school auditorium Sunday evening, December 13, at 8:15. Arranged and presented under the direction of Kathryn Mewborn, the Christmas pageants have come to be the outstanding event of the school year, this year's presentation marking the third of the student productions.

Music groups to sing the Christmas hymns and other famous songs will include the high school mixed chorus of ninety-nine voices, the grammar grade chorus of one hundred and twenty-seven voices, a girls trio, a double quartet of boys, and a double quartet of boys and girls.

The well-known scenes of the Nativity will be depicted on the main stage and tableaux relating the Christmas story to the war-torn world will be presented on a smaller stage constructed to the right of the auditorium.

Two narrators will interpret the Christmas message. Local churches will follow the custom of making the special program a union worship service for the community.

Town Board Holds Meet Last Evening

Holding one of its shortest sessions in recent months, the local town board of commissioners last night announced that there would be no holiday lighting on the streets this year. It is understood that home and yard lighting will be permissible.

Final plans for enlarging and improving the local cemetery were discussed. A project to clean up the old part of the property will be started within a few days, and a survey of the section recently added to the cemetery will be made in early January.

Mr. John R. Peel was appointed tax list-taker for the town and he will receive the list beginning in early January. Bills were inspected and approved and other routine business was handled.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Patrons who may wish to visit the rationing board office in this county on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons of this week are advised that it will be closed to the public to permit the employees to finish the preparation of kerosene rationing coupons. No business will be transacted for individuals during those afternoons.

It was pointed out that many persons using kerosene for lighting and cooking had been unable to buy the petro on a promise to surrender coupons later, and that it was imperative that the ration coupons be made ready for distribution next Friday afternoon and Saturday morning.

County Board Of Commissioners In Regular Meeting

Robt. L. Perry Is Re-elected Chairman for the New 1942-44 Term

Starting a new term here yesterday morning, the Martin County Board of Commissioners remained in session until late afternoon clearing the business calendar and handling duties associated with the first session of the term.

Subscribing to the oath of office administered by Clerk of Court L. B. Wynne, the board immediately affected its reorganization with Commissioner R. L. Perry continuing as chairman. The appointment of Paul D. Roberson as solicitor of the county court was made, and after a short delay the county's governing machinery, including that of the court, was functioning smoothly.

Bonds of the various county officers were approved as follows: Sheriff C. B. Roebuck, \$5,000; Clerk of Court L. B. Wynne, \$10,000; Register of Deeds J. Sam Getsinger, \$5,000; Treasurer R. H. Smith, \$40,000; Constable Chas. R. Moore, \$500, and Constable Edmond Early, \$500.

John Bland was reappointed superintendent of the county home, and E. S. Peel was reappointed county attorney.

Chas. R. Gray, of Robersonville, was appointed a member of the County Library Board to fill the position made vacant by the resignation of W. O. Andrews who resigned to join the armed forces.

Commissioner C. D. Carstarphen was appointed county tax supervisor for handling the 1943 tax program. He was charged with the duty of appointing the several list-takers and formulating plans for handling the 1943 listings. The appointments are expected within the next few days, and the tax group will likely meet on Monday, December 21 for instruction.

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Building And Loan Exceeds Bond Goal

The Martin County Building and Loan Association, Williamston, is over the top in the purchase of War Savings Bonds in cooperation with the national program sponsored by the U. S. Savings and Loan and the North Carolina Building and Loan League, to have all of the Associations in the country purchase \$100,000,000 in War Bonds between June 30 and December 31. The North Carolina Associations have been requested to purchase \$1,915,000 of this amount and in turn quotas have been assigned by counties to the individual associations. The quota for Martin County was \$78,000 and a report received at State League committee headquarters from the Martin County Building and Loan Association indicates recent purchases by this association of bonds in excess of the amount for the county quota.

This association is also an approved issuing agency for the sale and distribution of War Bonds to the public, and the purchase of bonds for its own account has no relation to its activities in this respect.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

A two weeks holiday for all county white schools was declared by the board of education in session here yesterday morning. The white schools will close on Friday, December 18, and reopen on Monday, January 4, the board ruled. Running behind schedule, the colored schools will not close until Wednesday, December 23. They will reopen on January 4.

The holiday for the white schools is longer than was anticipated, but there'll be little or no complaint coming from the students' quarter.

Portion of French Fleet Definitely In Hands of the Axis

Allied Drive Stalled in Africa But Big Developments Expected Soon

Early reports, revealing that the French fleet at Toulon had fallen into the hands of the Germans, were partially substantiated today when Navy Secretary Frank Knox announced that fifteen of the French warships, five tankers had been taken over in perfect running order be pushed into service following repairs to damage done to them by French patriots. Included among the ships confiscated by Hitler's gang are two light cruisers and six destroyers. Apparently three-fourths of the fleet were destroyed excepting two or three subs and a destroyer that ran the Axis gauntlet and showed up at Allied ports.

To offset, partly at least, the loss of a portion of the French fleet to the Germans at Toulon comes a report that that portion of the French fleet at Dakar is joining the Allies with the Fighting French in charge. The transfer there, according to unofficial sources, includes a battleship and thirty other warships. The transfer is accredited to Admiral Darlan around whom a political battle still rages.

Reports from the battlefronts reflect a stalemate in Tunisia and minor reverses for the Russians on the eastern front. Little late news has come out of the Pacific, and it is presumed that there's little activity on Guadalcanal. The Allied drive in New Guinea apparently still goes forward gradually.

While the Allied drive in Tunisia is temporarily stalled, big developments are expected there "soon". The British and Americans are on the defensive just now, but the Allies are trying to bring up strong air support, and despite enemy claims the Germans can't go far with their limited forces. Thrown back at Tebourba after four days of pounding by superior German airpower, the Allies are engaging the enemy in a desperate tank battle, but no information as to the outcome of the two-day encounter has been released.

Encouraging reports, looking to successful operations in Africa, are coming from the British 8th Army. Preparations, according to reports, are shaping up for a final rout of Rommel's forces there.

On the eastern front blizzards and a stiffening German resistance have slowed the Russians down, and their winter offensive is hardly maintaining the pace set just a few days ago. The Germans are coming forward with extravagant claims, saying that they have pierced the Russian lines between Moscow and Leningrad to a depth of ten miles, wrecking Russian supply lines.

Tasting costly reverses in their travels around Guadalcanal, the Japs have veered from that course and are said to be massing troops in Indo-China and Burma possibly for an all-out drive on China's Yunnan Province.

Commenting on the situation in the Aleutians, Secretary Frank Knox said today that nothing but dead Japs would be left there, that the others are being driven out.

The real Pearl Harbor has been revealed, the belated information stating that the Japs missed final victory by not following up its sneak raid on that day of infamy a year ago.

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News From The Soil Conservation Front

Mr. J. T. Moore, who lives on the Oak City-Palmyra road, has recently worked out a farm plan with the Coastal Plain District. He was especially interested in planting an acre of Kudzu around a steep slope in the field. This Kudzu will be useful as a hay crop as well as preventing erosion. Mr. Moore is also interested in improving his pasture as he has some nice grade beef cattle.

Mr. W. L. Aurborn, district supervisor from Martin County and a farmer living in the Cross Roads community, is planning to construct a firebreak on his farm of approximately 1000 feet long as one of the conservation measures.

The firebreak will be established by clearing underbrush on a strip approximately 15 feet wide and plowing so as to expose the mineral earth and then disking once each year to keep down weeds. The firebreak will not prevent fire from crossing, but will serve as a roadway to get to the fire and more important as a place from which to backfire in case a fire is approaching his woodland.

Bear Grass Teacher Is Called By Marine Corps

Professor Joseph Holliday, reservist in the Marine Corps, has been notified to report for duty the latter part of next week. Notified a few days ago to report, the young man is giving up his post as a member of the Bear Grass school faculty today.