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County Board Rations Big Number Of Tires

Most Of The Tires Reclaimed From Old And Surplus Stocks

Applications Pending for Several Months Are Cleared From Files This Week

Acting a bit late but just as soon as they were allowed to do so, members of the Martin County Rationing Board literally played the roll of a good Santa Claus this week when they rationed a record number of automobile and truck tires and tubes. Virtually all the old applications were cleared from the files, a few having to go over for consideration at a later meeting. The supply was exhausted for December. Hearing that the board was issuing the tires after a liberal fashion, auto and truck owners from all over the county rushed in with new applications and the requests are piling up in fairly large numbers.

The board this week rationed 171 Grade III auto tires, 24 Grade II auto tires, eight new auto tires, 47 recap auto tires and 102 auto tire tubes, twelve new truck tires, 8 recap truck tires and six truck tire tubes.

Some of the applications had been pending since last August or before. In a few instances classifications could not be established or were not established and rations were allowed.

New automobile tires and tubes were issued to the following:

- Reuben A. Edmondson, Hamilton, one tire and tube for mail deliveries.
- Mrs. J. R. Keel, RFD 3, Williamston, one tube for farm.
- Z. D. F. White, Robersonville, one tube for farm.
- Simon Lilley, RFD 1, Williamston, two tubes for farm.
- Dannie Hollis, Robersonville, one tube for farm.
- C. W. Copeland, RFD 1, Palmyra, three tires and three tubes for farm.
- Harry G. Jones, Williamston, three tires and two tubes for hauling fuel and making repairs.
- Kelly L. Rawls, Robersonville, one tire.
- New truck tires and tubes were allotted to the following:
- John W. Gurkin, Williamston, five tires and three tubes for hauling peanuts.
- John A. Manning, Williamston, five tires and three tubes for hauling peanuts.
- Town of Williamston, two tires for sanitary department.
- Six recapped truck tires were issued to the Martin County Transfer Co., Robersonville, for hauling farm

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Liquor Sales Reach A New High Point

Liquor sales in the county reached a new high point last Christmas Eve day, the four stores reporting a gross income of \$4,797.45 for the day as compared with \$4,523.10 on the corresponding day in 1941. While the total for the day exceeded that of the corresponding day in 1941, two stores, Jamesville and Oak City, reported decreases in their sales.

With the price of the fluid higher than it was a year ago, it is quite possible that the actual amount of liquor sold was less than it was on December 24, 1941. However, it is believed that the sales on Christmas Eve, 1942, would have been even larger than they were had it not been for the rush a few days before Christmas. At that time it was rumored sales would be suspended on account of a reported shortage. The supply was limited at Oak City and Jamesville and possibly the shortage made itself felt in the sales there.

In addition to the liquor sales, wines and beers were in great demand and it is understood that income from that source ran into the thousands of dollars.

Liquor sales by stores for December 24, 1941, and December 24, 1942, were as follows:

During the four days before Christmas, sales in all four stores amounted to \$12,577.60.

TAX LISTING

The annual round-up of taxables is getting underway in the county today and tomorrow. Two list-takers, Messrs. John R. Peel, Williamston, and H. S. Everett, Robersonville, are sitting in their respective townships today and tomorrow. The other list-takers plan to start the work on or about the 11th of this month.

It is fairly certain that no additional time will be allowed for listing properties after January 31, and those owners who list early will avoid the last-minute rush.

Tax Supervisor C. D. Carstarphen promises a complete schedule of listing dates and places the early part of next week.

Britishers Seem To Enjoy Visits Here During the Holiday

Can't Understand Why People Will Waste Good Eggs In Egnog

Experiencing the comforts of homelife and the friendship of civilians for the first time in two years or more, thirty-three British seamen apparently enjoyed to the fullest their visits as special guests in private homes here, in the community and in Hamilton during the holidays. And it can be said that the hosts enjoyed their special company, that the presence of the visitors enhanced the real Christmas spirit in these parts.

While the customs were a bit foreign to both visitor and host at first, the barriers were soon cast aside and mutual friendships followed in rapid order. The fact that three of the youngsters dared extend their leaves on their own accord and the declaration by one that his Christmas in Williamston was the most enjoyable one he had had in nearly fifteen years proved that the group had an enjoyable time. Possibly some of the boys found the many questions fired at them a bit tiring and boring, but they were very accommodating with the answers and poured them out during long sittings. "Even before we could answer one, they would ask another, but we did the best we could," one youngster was quoted as saying after an all-day bombardment of questions.

Surely, our ways and customs puzzled the Britishers, but what several of them said they could not understand was why should anyone waste

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County Authorities Look For Quiet Meet Monday

The Martin County commissioners anticipate an uneventful business session here next Monday, according to an advanced report coming from their office today. Very little business other than that of a routine nature has been scheduled. One or two constables are to be appointed and their bonds will be inspected as the most unusual business before the meeting.

General Business Completes Successful Period In County

General business in Martin County has rounded out what some describe as its most successful year. The period was not without its uncertainties and changes, but as a whole, the trade volume established new high records. The war had forced some few businesses out of existence and dealt a heavy blow to others, but the general group struggled to a successful close.

A marked feature of the trade during the last few months was the purchase of needed or durable goods. The shoppers, for the most part, turned to the clothing, hardware and furniture stores to make their gift selections. Bodies, formerly ill clad, came out all diked up in brand new outfits, and wardrobes and dressers were weighted down with wearing apparel.

Russia Mopping Up German Invaders On Five Major Fronts

Allied Forces Driving To Cut Off Rommel's Advance Toward Tunisia

Continuing a strong offensive, Russian armies are mopping up Germans by the thousands on five major fronts today, and bidding to destroy an estimated third of a million men in the southern Caucasus area. Over a third of a million Germans have already been killed or captured before Stalingrad, the great industrial city around which one of the most stubborn and costly sieges in history has now been virtually lifted. For more than 140 days, the Russians suffered before the merciless pounding of the invaders, but the tide has not turned and they are threatening to wipe out the invaders by the hundreds of thousands.

A year-end review of the Russian offensives in south Russia revealed that they all were parts of a grand scale plan to encircle and rout the Germans and their allies in the greater Stalingrad area. That now has been done, the Red Army declared.

The official summary said 175,000 Axis troops had been killed and 137,650 captured before Stalingrad on the Middle Don, and southwest of Volga City since the Soviet thunderbolt struck first on November 19.

The latest of the concerted offensives was reported whirling across the Kalmyk steppes far below Stalingrad, and the whole German front there appeared to be collapsing. El-ista, capital of the Kalmyk republic, was virtually surrounded, while the Russian right wing plunged down the Stalingrad-Caucasus railway toward Rostov.

News from other fronts on this, the first day of the New Year is also encouraging. Allied forces are driving to cut Rommel off from Tunisia. A few direct reports have been received from New Guinea, but the fighting is progressing favorably for the Allies with the Japs all but wiped out in the Buna area and with the British forces pushing ahead in China.

Little Activity On Peanut Market

The local peanut market has reported very little activity since the holiday, farmers pointing out that weather conditions had made it impossible to carry on picking operations and that the roads made deliveries almost impossible. Resuming their threshing work this week, some farmers found it advisable to stop until the fields dried out to permit movement to and from the pickers.

No deliveries have been made to the government storage warehouses, but a few shipments have been made during the week to cleaners from local warehouses. The government will start receiving peanuts at this point next Monday.

The market is a bit dull but prices ranging as high as 8 1-4 cents plus a small premium have been reported during the past few days.

While there is no question about the record business volume, business operators point out that profit taking is threatened with uncertainty. Ceiling prices had their telling effect, and taxes loom as a cloud almost directly overhead. Recent months saw the disappearance of many types of goods and articles, and, no doubt, many more will disappear, but of that which was left the population, blessed with a bountiful harvest last summer and fall and with fair prices, bought freely. The business line-up here for the current year will likely undergo no marked change for the present, at least. Merchants and other business operators are making ready to do all in their power to carry on despite expected changes and increased burdens as a result of the war.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

May Courage and Peace abide in your heart, and a victorious happiness come to you in the year just beginning.

War As It Relates To Home Front Is Reviewed for Week

Over-all Picture of War and Its Effect on the Home Front Offered

As the war progresses, the Allies no longer are caught napping at any point, however obscure it may appear in the grand strategy of the United Nations. If it is surprising that American light tanks are reported in action on the jungle-enclosed strip of New Guinea Beach, how much more extraordinary must have been the means of getting them there.

On the economic front our government must be equally far-seeing. More than 50 million pounds of seed, for example, have been destined for planting on foreign soil, under lend-lease arrangements. Some of these seeds are supplies to areas occupied by our troops, who will raise fresh vegetables when they aren't fighting. Grass seeds are sent to new air fields for surfacing barren strips. But the bulk of the seeds go for foods to feed the peoples of Allied lands in desperate need of them and to replant farmlands lately freed from Axis control. And seeds take up less shipping space than produce in any other form.

Civilians Will Not Benefit

Although American farms must raise a great deal more crops of many kinds in 1943, civilians must not expect to benefit by the increase. Our armed forces will need much more of all that is raised, and so will our Allies, England, Russia, and the French.

Not only is food, as it supports fighting men, a direct instrument of warfare, it is an essential bulwark of civilian populations in war time. The hatred felt by the people of occupied Europe for their Nazi oppressors is fed by the pangs of hunger, their hopes of liberation and of ultimately getting food from us strengthen their resistance and definitely aid the Allied cause.

The plight of starving millions abroad and the fearful conditions under which many of our soldiers are fighting in jungle and desert should awaken in all of us at home the willingness to take cheerfully the slight discomforts and minor hardships which necessarily go with a war of this kind, especially the inconveniences connected with rationing and other restrictions of scarce goods. The combined savings of millions of Americans, in motoring and heating, particularly among those living along the Atlantic Seaboard, helped our army land in North Africa and attack the Axis, but the total quantity of these products needed for a continuing campaign is enormous, and will require the service of a fleet of tankers. For this reason, the Army has sent an urgent plea to civilians to save gasoline and fuel oil in every way possible. At the

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BOARD HOURS

Effective this week, the Martin County War Price and Rationing Board is closing each Tuesday and Friday afternoon at 12 o'clock and at 12:30 noon on Saturdays. On Tuesday and Friday of each week, the employees will clear certificates and reports. On other days the office will observe the following hours, 8 a. m. to 12 noon, and from 1 to 5 p. m.

Everyone having any business in the rationing board office will save himself inconvenience if he will note the new office hours and arrange his trips accordingly.

Large Dairy Barn Destroyed By Fire Wednesday Night

Large Number Cows Driven From Burning Building At Edgewood Dairy

Its origin unknown, fire burned the large cow barn at the Edgewood Dairy at the end of West Main Street here early last Wednesday evening, nearly trapping a large number of prize cows and threatening feed barns and a potato curing house. An accurate estimate of the loss could not be had immediately, but Frank Weaver, operator-manager, stated that approximately 800 bales of hay were burned and that the building could hardly be replaced for less than \$1,500 or \$2,000. The building was insured for a small amount and it is understood that none was carried on the contents.

When first discovered the fire was breaking through that part of the building where most of the hay was stored and fanned by a strong west wind it was sweeping through the building and over the heads of the large dairy herd. An employee discovered the fire and called Mr. Weaver. They raced across the field and by the time they opened the front door, Hubert Smith, Jr., seeing the fire from the highway, ran there and crawled through a window back of the cows and drove them to safety. Fire was leaping over the heads of the cows and the big building was cracking and popping from the heat.

Called to the scene, the local fire department without an adequate water supply could do nothing to save the big building, but the firemen kept it from spreading to other feed barns and a curing barn filled with potatoes near by. Plans for replacing the structure have not been completed, the dairy owners explaining that they were not certain if a building permit could be had.

It was a hectic day for the dairy, Manager Weaver stating that one of his employees left, the barn burned down and another employee died.

Report One Wreck During Holidays

Travel on the highways in this county during the holidays was almost without incident, Patrolman Whit Saunders reporting only one wreck and one or two minor bumps.

No one was hurt and no great damage resulted to property when a truck driven by Eddie Arthur Hardy and a 1942 Ford driven by Archie Daniel Coltrane crashed early Christmas eve morning in front of the Williamston Parts and Metal Company's yard on West Main Street during a heavy fog.

Hardy was making a left-hand turn into the yard and Coltrane was driving into town when the two vehicles crashed, doing about \$100 damage to the two machines.

In one or two other minor accidents, fenders were damaged slightly, but the wrecks were of so little consequence that no records were made.

Holiday Season Is Quietly Observed In Martin County

The holiday season in Martin County was quietly observed and without incident, older citizens and officers declaring that the period was one of the quietest they could recall. There were no serious accidents, arrests were limited indeed and the general observance of the day clearly indicated that the day reflected more of the real Christmas spirit than many of those observed in the past.

As far as it could be learned there were only three arrests made in the entire county on Christmas day and the day before. Three drunks, one in Robersonville and two in Williamston, were temporarily detained, but they were out in time to join their family circles on Christmas day. One of them stands charged with drunk driving. The county jail was empty

Urging Mobilization of Country's Agriculture

WARNING

A last warning was issued this week to Martin County retailers, including wood and coal dealers and filling station operators carrying small grocery stocks, to file a copy of their price "setting" by the tenth of this month. Any firm or dealer failing to comply with the order requiring the filing of price ceilings will be reported to the office of war price administration and be subjected to prosecution in the federal courts.

District Administrator Chappell was in the county this week reviewing the records and making arrangements to hold a meeting with retailers in Williamston within the near future.

Normal Attendance In County's Schools

Closing unexpectedly ahead of an announced schedule for the Christmas holidays, most of the county schools reopened last Wednesday with their attendance figures ranging close to normal. A good number of absences was reported by one or two schools and while the attendance was possibly below the average in others it was up to expectations.

The schools at Hamilton, Hassell and Oak City delayed their post-Christmas opening until next Monday when road conditions would not permit bus travel on some of the routes, it was explained. In most of the other school districts, the buses, with some few exceptions, operated on schedule.

Washington County Citizen Passes Here

Mrs. Sarah Swain Sitterson Chesson, well known and highly respected citizen of Washington County, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Walter Gurganus, near here, on Wednesday afternoon, December 23rd, following a long period of illness.

Funeral services were conducted last Thursday afternoon in the St. Delight's Christian Church, near Plymouth, where Mrs. Chesson had been a member for a long number of years. Rev. Preston Cayton and Rev. John L. Goff conducted the last rites.

Besides her daughter here, Mrs. Chesson is survived by the following children, J. D. Sitterson, of Southern Pines; Ben, Chas. and Rufus Sitterson, all of Norfolk; Mrs. B. J. Bateman, of Newport News; Mrs. Willie Davenport, of Washington, and Mrs. R. L. Bateman, of Plymouth.

Small Fire At Sunny Side Inn Yesterday

Starting from a falling spark on the roof, fire did very little damage to the Sunny Side Inn on the Washington Road yesterday morning about 10 o'clock. Firemen were called, but the fire was out upon their arrival.

Delbert W. Stalls Dies At Home Here

Delbert W. Stalls, 26 years of age, died at his home on West Main Street here last Wednesday night at 11 o'clock following a short illness. Suffering a stroke last Monday night, the young man never regained consciousness. It was in his usual health just before he was taken ill.

The son of Mrs. Sullie Wynne Stalls and the late D. D. Stalls, he was born in Williamston and spent his entire life here. Working at various tasks since he was a young fellow, he was an industrious young man. During his employment at the Edgewood Dairy here he was never late, and seemed anxious and willing to handle his assigned tasks well even though he did not enjoy the best of health at times. He did not join the church but he attended regularly and Dr. Wm. R. Burrell will conduct the last rites at the home this afternoon at 3 o'clock. Interment will follow in the family plot in the local cemetery.

Beside his mother, he is survived by two brothers, D. D. and Oswald D. Stalls, both of Williamston, and two sisters, Mrs. Sidney Ring, of Norfolk, and Miss Caroline Stalls, of Baltimore.