

## Special Plea For Increased Acreage Of Irish Potatoes

### Attention Is Again Called To Guaranteed Price and Incentive Payment

In a personal letter to Mr. C. G. Crockett here this week, A. E. Mercker, of the Potato and Vegetable Section, U. S. Department of Agriculture, says that the Government is doing everything possible would be done to boost to an absolute maximum the potato acreage in this section this year. "As you know, potatoes are now the major food crop and it is essential that we have an adequate supply of them," Mr. Mercker said in his letter.

Apparently the supply is dropping already, unofficial but reports considered reliable stating that an estimated 2,000 carloads of old potatoes would move in May compared with an average movement of 7,000 cars in past years.

More Martin County farmers are making plans to plant an increased acreage between now and the early part of March.

In connection with the potato program, Mr. Mercker released the following Department of Agriculture information:

To encourage growers to increase Irish potato production sufficiently to meet expanded wartime requirements, the Department of Agriculture today announced that it will support potato prices in 1943 at a level equivalent to 92 per cent of parity.

The Department announced recently that the 1943 potato acreage goal has been increased an additional 3.6 per cent over 1942 plantings, calling for a total planted acreage of 3,260,000 acres—nearly 17 per cent over 1942 acreage. It also was announced that a production incentive payment program would be operated in conjunction with the price support program in encouraging this increased production.

Under the incentive payment program, growers will receive 50 cents per bushel on the normal yield of the acreage planted to potatoes in excess of 90 per cent of their individual farm goals, up to 110 per cent of the goals. This incentive payment applies only to acreage planted after February 1, 1943, but the price support program applies to all potatoes harvested after March 1st.

Secretary of Agriculture Wickard emphasized the necessity of a substantial increase in planted acreage. "We have a reasonably adequate supply of potatoes at present because of unusually high yields per acre," he said. "We cannot depend on such yields in 1943, and must do everything possible to assure a large crop even though yields decline."

"Previously we had asked growers to plant 366,600 additional acres, or 13 per cent more than were planted in 1942," the Secretary said. "and

(Continued on page six)

## Increased Business In Recorder's Court At Monday Session

### Judge J. C. Smith Works Before Unusually Large Crowd

Handling an unusually small docket last week, the Martin County Recorder's court this week had a marked increase in its business, Judge J. C. Smith and Solicitor Paul D. Roberson working until after 12 o'clock clearing the docket. An untold number of proceedings were, for the most part, rather dull.

Proceedings: Pleading guilty in the case charging him with drunken driving, Paul Meeks was fined \$50, taxed with the costs and had his driver's license revoked for one year. He explained to the court that he had already lost his liquor ration book, and no order was issued directing him to surrender it to the Pitt County ABC board, the defendant being a resident of the neighboring county.

Charged with violating the health laws, Roosevelt Scott was fined \$5 and taxed with the cost, the court suspending further sentence on condition that the defendant take treatment prescribed for a doctor.

Pleading not guilty to the non-support charge lodged against him, Hubert L. Everett was adjudged guilty. He was directed to pay into the court for the use and benefit of his son the sum of \$8 a week and to appear before the court on the second Monday in July of this year and show that the costs of the action had been paid. Bond in the sum of \$200 was required.

(Continued on page six)

## Reach High Figure Last Year Receipts At Local Post Office

With an income of \$24,870.89, the local post office established a new high record last year. Assistant Postmaster F. Earl Wynne stating that the receipts were more than \$2,000 greater than they were in 1941 when the \$22,610.07 income represented a record up until it was patterned down last year.

Despite marked changes in the business field and urgent pleas to limit expenditures, including greeting cards and the like, to a minimum, the stamp sales continued to climb right on through last year. It is estimated that the office handled in the neighborhood of 800,000 stamps during last year, the total income well proving that pennies do count in a big way.

In addition to passing out the stamps in large quantities, the post office during the last quarter of

### IN AFRICA

Miss Natalie Gould, former Williamston resident and for several years secretary in the local employment office, is now with the Red Cross field forces in Africa. Miss Gould, a sister of Mrs. Dewey Hayman, of Williamston, arrived safely in North Africa a few days ago, relatives were advised this week.

Resigning her position as secretary to Dr. Ralph McDonald, of the University Extension Division, Miss Gould received three weeks training in Washington last December in preparation for her work in the field. She will operate a clubmobile equipped with facilities to carry doughnuts, coffee, magazines, books and cigarettes to service men stationed at outposts along the fighting fronts.

## Uniform Regulation For Handling Raid Warning Announced

### Change To Become Effective On February 17 In Eastern Military Area

New uniform air raid protection regulations have been announced by Headquarters of the Eastern Defense Command and First Army for sixteenth Atlantic Seaboard States and the District of Columbia, effective 12:01 A.M., February 17, 1943. The new regulations are the result of studies made by the War Department and the Office of Civilian Defense based upon the experience gained during the past year.

The new regulations provide for uniform air raid signals designed to permit earlier blackout and mobilization of civilian defense personnel, greater civilian protection, and a minimum of time loss and interference with essential war production and transportation. Public Proclamation No. 4, issued today by Lieut. Gen. Hugh A. Drum, Commanding General of the Eastern Defense Command and First Army, in accordance with War Department instructions, established the authority for adopting uniform regulations in the Eastern Military Area, including North Carolina.

These regulations were issued by appropriate Service Command Headquarters at Boston, New York, Baltimore, Atlanta, and the Military District Headquarters in Washington, D. C. The principal features of the new regulations which were approved by the War Department and concurred in by the Office of Civilian Defense are:

1. A preliminary audible public "Blue" warning signal is prescribed, consisting of a steady blast lasting approximately two minutes on air raid horns, sirens or whistles. This signal, which ordinarily will be the first public audible warning, means "Probability of enemy air raid—Enemy planes appear to be headed in this direction."

## Fire Wrecks Home On Elm Street Here

Starting in or near the kitchen, fire swept through and wrecked the home of Fleming Allen on North Elm Street here early yesterday afternoon. A high wind fanned the fire and homes several blocks away were filled with smoke, firemen finding it difficult to approach the burning building against the wind and smoke.

Using two lines of hose, the volunteers fought the fire for well over an hour before bringing it under control. The room and its supporting timbers were burned away and the ceiling in the one-story home was charred. Considerable damage was done by water, making the building almost a total loss.

No official estimate on the damage could be had immediately, but it will possibly approximate \$1,500 or \$2,000 with no large amount of insurance.

## Town-Farm In Wartime

(A weekly news digest from the rural press section of the OWI news bureau)

### Rationing Begins March 1st

Rationing of canned, dried and frozen fruits and vegetables will begin March 1, and retail sales of more than 100 items will be rationed after February 20th. Beginning Monday, February 22nd, housewives will register for War Ration Book No. 2, which will allow a total of 48 "points" for each member of the family for the month of March. Stamps will have values of 8, 5, 2, and 1. If a family has more than 5 cans per person on hand, stamps will be removed from the book in proportion to their excess holding. Official point values will be made public as soon as stocks are "frozen." Registration probably will be held in local school houses and one member may register for the whole family.

Some foods need not be counted. They include canned olives, canned milk, fish, pickles, relish, jellies, jams, preserves, spaghetti, macaroni, noodles and all home-canned foods.

### "Non-Deferable" Occupations

Twenty-nine occupations were announced as "non-deferable" for any reason by the Bureau of Selective Service of the WMC on Feb. 2. All occupations in an additional 19 manufacturing, 8 wholesale and retail, and 9 service activities were also called non-deferable. Any man in these occupations is advised to get into a war job immediately. After April 1 he will not be deferred if he has dependents, he will still be drafted unless his work contributes to the war effort.

### Lumber for Farms

Almost six billion board feet of lumber a year will be required on American farms after the war, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service. More than 5,000 million board feet will be needed for repair and replacement of buildings, 700 million feet for buildings on new farms, and 159 million for other uses.

### More Fuel For Farm Machinery

Farm producers will hereafter be given more fuel oil for their tractors. (Continued on page six)

## Russians Are Within Twenty-one Miles of Kharkov in Ukraine

### War Secretary Stimson Warns Nation To Prepare For "Heavy Casualties"

With possibly no exception, the current week of the war has offered the best news of any since 1941. Led by the valiant Russians, the Allied forces have scored, selling victories around the world. Guadalcanal is all ours. The submarine menace while still bad is not considered hopeless. Churchill having said yesterday that possibly the Cubs are being sunk as fast as they are being built, and that shipping losses are being replaced faster than the U-boats can sink ships. A unified command has been announced for North Africa, and the Allied forces are moving forward on all fronts in the air, on land and on the high seas.

The good news was not received without warnings, however. There is a possibility that the war will last longer than even the less optimistic believe it will, and Secretary of War Stimson issued a solemn statement warning this nation to steel itself for heavy American casualties, "perhaps in the near future." Churchill intimated that the continent would be invaded some time this year, and a general offensive to drive the Germans out of Tunisia is believed to be in the making with the British and Fighting French already engaged in heavy action in the Mateur section.

On the Eastern front where the Germans are "hoofing" it after a wild fashion toward whatever safety the Dnieper River will offer, the Russians are still going strong. Rostov is now under siege and the Red Army is within 21 miles of Kharkov. The Stalingrad fight resulted in tremendous losses for the Germans, and the Russian losses were great.

### STILL RISING

Fed by heavy rains in its watershed, the Roanoke is on another rampage, but its present antics do not compare with those recorded in August, 1940. The river is the highest it has been since the big freshet. Still rising today, the stream is expected to reach a crest late tonight or early tomorrow and will approximate twelve feet on the gauge. Low lands are flooded and logging and lumbering operations along the river have been closed down by the high waters.

## County People Urged To Keep War Records

### General Collection Will Be Saved By Historical Agency

Individuals, Clubs and Agencies Urged to Save Every Item Including Letters

Buried deep in the official files in Washington is a skeleton record of the part played by Martin County, its service men and its citizens during the first World War. The record, at best, hardly goes beyond names and a few notations for service men. There are very few facts recorded about the part played by Martin County people in the Civil War. For instance, it is generally conceded that a Martin County man was the first casualty in the Civil War, that another Martin County man was farthest at Gettysburg, and that the last casualty at Appomattox was a Martin County man. While these facts are supported by certain information, they were never officially entered in the records.

Recognizing the value of such records as time moves forward, authorities are making every effort possible to get a detailed record of the current war as it relates to North Carolinians in the service and on the home front. These records will be arranged and preserved in the Historical Commission, Raleigh, for generations to come.

The Enterprise has been designated to head the collection in Martin County and assistants will be named in every community to help with the work. But individuals can make the collection successful if they will cooperate in every way possible.

Many records are being kept as they relate to the draft registrations, classifications and actual calls for service. Every effort is being made to keep a record of casualties, accomplishments and other general facts. Newspaper clippings are being preserved and other data are being collected as far as it is possible for one to do so.

Individuals can greatly help by preserving individual letters from service men. No one is being asked now to surrender their letters, but it is pointed out that every letter saved will help make the Martin County collection that much more complete. Individuals are urged not to throw them away but if they are ready to dispose of them to turn them over to The Enterprise or some person to be designated in their respective communities. Letters from men who actually fight a war have great historical value, and it is hoped that they can be gathered by the thousands in this county. Every one turned in to the Historical Commission will be properly filed and preserved.

Club and community activities as

(Continued on page six)

## Fire Destroys Farm Barn And Contents

Fire of undetermined origin destroyed a large two-story barn and all the contents on the Higgs farm belonging to Mr. Van G. Taylor, near Oak City, late last Wednesday night. Seven miles, about 60 barrels of corn, 1,100 bales of hay and all farm implements and vehicles except two carts were burned. The two-story structure measured about 80 by 45 feet.

When the fire was discovered, it had gained considerable headway and fanned by a high wind it burned rapidly. Had the wind been blowing in the opposite direction, the fire would have caught and burned the dwelling, Mr. Taylor believes.

It is estimated that the loss will run as high as \$7,000 with only a few hundred dollars of insurance in force.

Of the several farms operated by Mr. Taylor, the Higgs farm was only one that produced enough corn last year to meet its requirements.

## To Attend Special School Next Week

Mr. J. Gilbert Smith, of Robersonville, will report Sunday to the Norfolk Filter Area Recognition School, Virginia Beach, where he will undergo one week's training at Army expense, in aircraft recognition methods under the supervision of trained officers of the Army Air Forces.

## County Draft Board Will Continue Work on Classifications

### Deferments Based on Production Will Be Made Until Further Notice

While it is quite possible that its work will be rendered useless if a law now pending in Congress and providing for drafting of all eligible men regardless of dependency or vocation before married men are called, is passed, the Martin County Draft Board is finding it necessary to proceed with its classifications in accordance with current regulations. Meeting next Monday night, the board will consider mainly those appeals for reclassifications based on farm production.

If a single farmer satisfies the draft board that he is really figuring in the war by producing on the home front, he will be placed in 2-C. If the single farmer cannot establish production to the tune of 12 units, he is very likely to be placed in 1-A and made subject to call "soon." The married farmer without children will be placed in 3-C if he can prove to the satisfaction of the board that he is producing the required 12 farm units. If he is unable to establish his claim on that basis he will be continued in 3-A for the present. Draft Board Chairman R. H. Goodman explains that it is not necessary for the present, at least, for a married man with children who lives with his family and maintains a home to ask reclassification based on unit production. If the time comes when married men with children will be made subject to call, they will have ample opportunity to file their claims, it was pointed out.

The main basis for farm deferment is listed below, the board having ruled that 12 farm production units are sufficient in this county. The main production units common to this section are listed and valued as follows:

One milk cow or ten other dairy cattle or calves equal one unit; three sows or thirty feeder pigs equal one unit; 600 broilers and ducks equal one unit; 75 laying hens and ducks equal one unit; 300 flock replacements equal one unit; 40 turkeys and geese equal one unit; 160 sheep and goats equal one unit; 160 lambs in feedlot or 45 sheep and goats on range equal one unit; three milk goats equal one unit.

Field crops have the following unit values:

One and one-half acres of 15-16th inch cotton or over equal one unit; (if staple is under 15-16th, three acres equal one unit); 12 acres of soy beans equal one unit; two acres of peanuts, or Irish and sweet potatoes equal one unit; five acres of field corn equal one unit; three acres of sweet corn for fresh consumption equal one unit; ten acres of alfalfa hay seed, cover-cropped, grain sorghum, or cowpeas equal one unit.

(Continued on page six)

## Tire Rationing On Conservative Scale In The County Now

### Certificate Holders Unable to Get Tires Rationed More Than Week Ago

Following an unusually liberal distribution of tire rations more than a week ago, the Martin County War Price and Rationing Board this week struck a more conservative note and reduced its rations considerably, leaving quite a few applications for tires for consideration at the next regular meeting on Monday.

The wholesale rationing last week failed to solve the tire shortage in the county, numbers of certificate holders explaining they have been and still are unable to get the ovals. They are being advised in those cases to place the certificates on order with responsible tire dealers in whose hands the certificates will not become invalid at the end of 30 days. Holders are warned that the certificates will be no good thirty days following issuance if they are not turned over to and placed on order with tire dealers.

New truck tires were allowed the following:

- Will Roberson, RFD 1, Oak City, one new tire and tube.
- Jasper C. Griffin, RFD 2, Williamston, one tire.
- Roberson Slaughter House, Williamston, two tires and three tubes.
- Lindsay Ice Company, Williamston, one tire and one tube.
- Roberson Slaughter House, Williamston, two tires and two tubes.
- Grade III tires were allotted to the following:

- W. O. Abbitt, Williamston, two tires and two tubes.
- D. E. Bunting, Oak City, two tires.
- Raymond Wallace, Jamesville, three tires.
- James Taylor, Oak City, two grade III and three recapped tires.
- William Watson Walters, Jamesville, two grade III and two recapped tires.
- Leander Purvis, RFD 3, Williamston, one recap and three grade III tires.

(Continued on page six)

### IN THE FIGHT



Martin County youth have seen much action on the high seas, several of them paying with their lives, and no doubt others have figured in land battles on Guadalcanal and other areas, but the first official report telling of a Martin County youth in actual air combat came this week from the Army. As a member of a fighter squadron, Second Lieutenant James D. Walters of Jamesville, bagged a Japanese plane in a big fight over New Guinea a few days ago. Sixteen members of Lt. Walters' squadron shot down 24 planes, and two pilots from another squadron shot down four to boost the total kill to twenty-eight.

### Former Local Boy Writes From Some Place In War Zone

#### Table Laden with Eight Ducks Turkey and Hams Would Make Him Happy

The urgent need for greater food production is borne out in an interesting letter received a few days ago by Mrs. Janie Edwards Knox here from her brother, Pvt. Bill Edwards of a fighter squad somewhere in New Guinea.

In the thick of it over in the Southwest Pacific, the former Williamston young man had the following to say about food:

"I want to sit down at a table with a cloth on it. And then have eight ducks, one turkey, a baked ham, a boiled ham and all the fixings, including cakes and pies like we used to have. I think that would make me as happy as anything I can think of right now."

Continuing, Private Edwards said, "... You know I always did have a hard time writing letters and now, when I can't say anything except that I'm well, it makes it that much harder. Things are going on over here that I think you would enjoy though. It's plenty rugged."

"Buddy had a good time riding around on his ole boat last war. He should have to pull through this mud and mulch after a heavy tropical rain. Lovely."

Referring to his nephew, Master Wilton Knox, the young soldier said, "Tell 'Buckshot' that even though he

(Continued on page six)

## War Takes Youths From University

University of North Carolina deans this week notified 96 students enlisted in the Army that their induction papers were being mailed from Atlanta and gave official withdrawal permission to the reservists to leave Carolina. Among the group was Robert Levin, junior at the University from Williamston, who came home yesterday to stay with his parents until called.

This announcement, from the fourth corps area, came as a complete surprise to the boys who were expecting to finish the second quarter and possibly the third before being called this June.