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Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, February 16, 1945.

ESTABLISHED 1899

Potential Manpower For Army Is Greatly Reduced In This County By Reclassification Of Farmers

Married Men Likely To Be Called About Latter Part Of May

Possible Present Regulations Will Be Altered By Act Of Congress

Potential manpower for the armed services is being greatly reduced in this county as the reclassification of farmers continues, a report from the draft board in session here last evening stated that out of 40 men up for classification only six were placed in the 1-A classification. And in some of those six cases it is quite likely that exemptions will be made with the possibility that the number will be further reduced.

While adhering closely to an established standard of deferment, the draft board is proving sympathetic to the agricultural program and doing everything in its power to keep production up to the highest possible level. In those cases, however, where production does not measure up to reasonable expectations, 1-A classifications are being ordered.

Working for about three hours, the board handled only forty cases at the meeting here last night, but if the present trend is being maintained only about one out of every seven single farmers now in the county will be called. On that basis the supply of potential manpower for the armed services will be exhausted about April or May, meaning that married men can expect to be called the latter part of May or certainly by June. No married men, that is no men married before Pearl Harbor, have been placed in 1-A so far, but they will be up for reclassification shortly. It is expected that the March call can be filled from the group of December registrants, that they will be instructed to report for their first physical examinations in early March. The April call will be filled possibly from the "stragglers" in all registrations, leaving the married front wide open along about May or June.

These estimates are based on present regulations, and it is possible that the regulations will be changed. As it now stands, men are being called more or less regardless of dependency or marital status. Their occupational status is the thing that counts. However, Congress is up in arms about the sweeping orders calling for married men. The lawmakers are proposing a plan that will reverse the present order and a plan that will take all single men regardless of occupation or dependency before the married manpower pool is tapped. For the present, the draft board is recognizing occupations as a basis for deferment or classification. While no married men have yet been called, it is because the pool of single men has not been drained. On the basis of occupation, principally farming, the following classifications were effected at the meeting last evening:

Henry Outler Gurganus, w, RFD 2, Williamston, 3-C
Booker T. Bradley, c, Hamilton and Norfolk, 2-B
Ollie Alonzer Bland, w, RFD 1, Williamston and Norfolk, 3-B
Dalmer Mobley, w, RFD 1, Williamston, 3-C
(Continued on page six)

Four Face Ration Board Court Here

Four Martin County persons charged with violating the pleasure driving ban or exceeding the 35-mile speed regulation, were before the rationing board sitting as a special board of inquiry in the agricultural building last night.

No other cases were scheduled, but it was reliably learned that quite a few are pending, that OPA representatives are in this section at the present time investigating a reported increase in traffic.

Charged with pleasure driving on two counts, Roosevelt Coltrain, Williamston man and driver of the little yellow sport car, lost his A book for sixty days.

Cited by authorities in Sanford County, Virginia, Arthur Wallace Lilley, Jamesville youth, charged with pleasure driving, explained to the board that he was taking a relative to a doctor. The charge was dismissed after a warning was issued.

Thomas Reginald Griffin, Williamston school boy, charged with pleasure driving, had his A book clipped for sixty days.

Charged with exceeding the 35-mile speed regulation, James Strawbridge, Williamston man, will have his case reviewed by the board in the county where his employer, the Norfolk Southern Bus Corporation, buys its gas. He was cited to the board by authorities in Norfolk County.

Ration Book Registration To Be Held In All County Schools

Definite plans will be furnished by school principals meeting in the courthouse this week with ration board authorities for registering all county citizens for War Ration Book No. 2. It was announced today. The registration will be held in all the white and colored school houses throughout the county next week, dates and hours to be announced following the meeting of the principals and rationing authorities on Wednesday and Thursday.

Detailed announcements will be made later in the week, the authorities are saying. It is possible that some adjustments would be made to make the registration convenient for the citizens. In return, those handling the registration are asking the general public to cooperate by observing the registration scheduled to be announced later.

Tentative plans for the new registration make it possible for one person to register for another outside his immediate family as well as for members of his own family. However, before one may be registered he will be required to fill out a "consumer declaration," showing how much coffee the family or person had on hand on November 28 and amount of commercially canned food on hand on February 21 over and above five cans per person. Home-canned foods are not to be counted. A facsimile appears in this paper. The head of the family may fill out the required information, including names of the family and have a child or a neighbor register for him. Everyone is asked to study the declaration sheet known as OPA Form No. R-1301 and fill in the required information with the assurance that the registration will be quite easy and simple.

Patrol Investigate Fatal Car Accident Reported in County

Believe Case Will Be Turned Over To Grand Jury For Possible Indictment

An automobile accident happening on the night of January 31 and costing the life of Cassie C. Sneed, 30-year-old colored woman, was uncovered by Highway Patrolmen Saunders and Hunt in this county yesterday. Apparently trying to cover up the accident, the parties involved never reported it to the authorities, and it was through their regular work and investigations that the patrolmen picked up a lead in the case yesterday.

No definite action has been taken, but a complete investigation is underway and it is understood that the case will be carried to the grand jury next month.

Details could not be learned immediately, but the woman was said to have been killed when a speeding car in which she was riding went out of control near Council's store on N. C. Highway No. 11 and plowed into a ditch. One report stated that William Henry Knight, 18-year-old colored boy, was speeding down the highway, that Cassie Sneed, her sister, Lottie Bell Sneed, and a companion, Wheeler Council, begged Knight to slow down. It was also stated that when Knight continued the wild drive, Cassie Sneed opened the door and in trying to jump out got caught and was dragged a long distance. She was said to have died on the way to a Tarboro hospital.

None of the occupants in the car has been questioned, patrolmen explaining that what little information that had been gotten so far was gained from unofficial but reliable sources.

It was the first fatal accident reported in this county since the war.
(Continued on page six)

Firemen Called Twice To Home On Elm Street

Fire from a blazing chimney threatened the home of Fenner Respass on North Elm Street last Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Volunteer firemen were called but their services were not needed. Twenty minutes later sparks fell on the roof and fired it in several places and the firemen were called out a second time. Water, poured on the roof, froze before it could reach the eaves. No damage was done.

NO INCENTIVE?

A call for a hundred million dollars to finance incentive payments for surplus food production, is echoing in Washington today after striking a stone wall constructed by a sub-group of the House Agriculture Committee. The group rejected the plan by about five to one. The proposal, sponsored by the Secretary of Agriculture and offering \$30 an acre for surplus peanuts, 50 cents a bushel for potatoes and so on, can be saved and the outlook is not as gloomy as the reports would have it appear.

It is firmly believed the incentive payments will be made available, or Congress will take drastic action to boost farm commodity prices to a point where the farmer would get more money than he would under the incentive payment plan. It is still a good bet to plant every seed for food possible.

Town-Farm In Wartime

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

Living Costs Rise 1-2 Per Cent
Living costs on Dec. 15, 1944, were 1-2 of one per cent higher than on Nov. 15, the Department of Labor reported. Total rise for America's first war year was 9 per cent, and the total increase since the outbreak of war in Europe is 22.1 per cent, as compared with almost 35 per cent in the same period of the last war. Prices under OPA control rose 3 per cent during the month, prices under control of other Government agencies did not rise at all, and prices not under any control rose 2 per cent.

Silk Stockings For War
Silk and nylon stockings—232,158 pounds of them—were donated by American women during the month of Dec. 15 to Jan. 15, for two months. The total was 372,130 pounds representing about 7,500,000 pairs of stockings. Powder bags for big game hunters, and other vital war products are made from silk and nylon reclaimed from old stockings.

Federal Employment
The smallest net monthly change in civilian employment in the Federal Government was recorded during November, when 2.3 per cent more employees were added, said Civil Service Commission. At the end of November total civilian employment in Federal service totaled 2,750,101 as compared with 2,687,093 a month before and 1,545,131 a year before.

War Expenditures
Expenditures for munitions and war construction—planes, tanks, ships, guns, ammunition, etc.—will total about \$157,000,000,000 from June 1940 through the end of 1943, if prices are held at present levels. That will be about \$78 billion less than these goods would cost if prices were not controlled and were allowed to follow the inflationary pattern of World War I in 1914.

More Munitions
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Renew "B" and "C" Cards by Mail
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Priorities on Underwear
A "priority list" of heavyweight undergarments, for which standard specifications and prices are being worked out, is being prepared by OPA. The list will comprise kinds of underwear considered most essential for civilian use.

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Several Of Colored Group Making Their Second Trip To Camp

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German Tanks Drive Twenty-mile Wedge Into American Lines

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MORE CHECKS

More soil conservation payments are being made to farmers in this county, a report coming from the office of the farm agent this week stating that 589 checks had already been delivered amounting to \$21,186.96 and representing 308 applications. It is estimated that about one-fifth of the payments have been made, and on that basis, the total payments will approximate \$100,000 in the county for 1942. About 100 applications are still pending in the office of the county agent at the present time. The checks are being mailed direct to the farmers from a sub office of the AAA in Richmond.

Little Girl Is Fatally Injured In Accident On Houghton Street

Funeral Service Held Sunday Afternoon For Nora Mae Cherry

Nora Mae Cherry, eight years old, was fatally injured when she was struck by a pick-up truck on North Houghton Street, a short distance from the Pentecostal Holiness Church here last Friday afternoon at 4:50 o'clock. Her skull fractured and bruised on other parts of her body, the little girl died in the local hospital Saturday evening at 7:30 o'clock without regaining consciousness.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Cherry, the child left her home on Rhodes Street and ran across the cemetery and the north end of the street to a small grass fire started by several children. Operating a pick-up truck loaded with hogs, Edgar Davis, young Hamilton white man, was driving into town. As he neared the spot beside the road where the children were watching the fire, the little Cherry girl darted into the road. Davis applied the brakes and swerved to the right in an effort to miss the child. Just as she reached the right side of the road or about the time she stepped on the dirt, the truck hit her. She was not knocked clear, but was carried on the radiator and bumper for about 20 steps before the machine plowed into the soft shoulder and came to a stop.

Witnesses to the accident stated that the truck was not traveling over 22 or 25 miles an hour, that the accident was unavoidable on the part of the truck driver.

His truck stuck in the ditch, Davis stopped another, picked up the victim and carried her to the hospital, reports stating that he, badly upset by the tragedy, readily accepted the costs and stood by to render what aid he could.