



# THE ENTERPRISE



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## Reviews Activities In Recent Session Of The Legislature

### Additional Month To School Term Probably The Main Achievement

(In the following article, Senator Hugh G. Horton, favorably mentioned as a leading candidate for lieutenant governor, reviews the activities of the recent session of the North Carolina General Assembly. The notation is made here to give Mr. Horton due credit for his work as chairman of the Senate Education Committee and as the main spring behind the move in the Senate to lengthen the public school term.)

Mr. Horton's review:

The 1943 General Assembly, now history, having ended on March 10, 1943, accomplished, among other things, the following:

The creation of a Post-War Reserve Fund.

At the beginning of the session there was an estimated surplus in the general fund of approximately \$30,000,000. Many of the legislators went to Raleigh with various designs upon this surplus, and the general policy adopted was not to make any change in the tax structure of the state until conditions were more normal, and in dealing with the surplus the General Assembly first of all appropriated \$20,000,000 for the rainy day that is sure to come, and also provided that any further surplus which may accrue in the biennium shall be added to that fund. Thus, a reserve fund has been created that will be beneficial in the financing of the state when the war is over and the depression comes, that always comes after war, and which I think was a very wise policy.

Probably the outstanding achievement of the session was the adoption of a minimum nine months school term. This was an act of fairness and equality to all the children of the state, and thus gives to three-fourths of the children in North Carolina the first opportunity they have had to enjoy the same school term already enjoyed by one-fourth of the school children in North Carolina, and thus carried out the plan of great statesmen: "Equal educational advantages to all."

The session of the General Assembly wisely refused to interfere with laws effecting labor in the State of North Carolina. This will permit our state to go along as it has done in the past with a minimum labor trouble. Certainly no anti-labor legislation was proposed or passed, and this permits a wholesome situation with respect to labor in our state.

There was created by this General Assembly unified boards of control for mental and correctional institutions, and under such boards the four major mental institutions will be able to function more economically and more advantageously and thus do more for the inmates thereof than ever before. This is a correction of a situation that has not been the best in the past, and considerable hope may be held out for further improvement.

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## Judge J. C. Smith Calls Eight Cases In County's Court

### Defendant Directed to Surrender Liquor Ration Book Or Go To The Roads

Calling eight cases, Judge J. Calvin Smith cleared the docket in a snappy session of the Martin County Recorder's Court last Monday. With a comparatively small crowd present for the proceedings, Judge Smith and Solicitor Paul D. Roberson completed their work in less than two hours or in ample time to make to their homes in Robersonville for lunch without exceeding the 35-mile speed regulation.

Appearing before the court for alleged drunken driving, Haywood Johnson pleaded guilty. He was directed to pay a \$50 fine and the costs, the court revoking his driver's license for one year. The defendant was also directed to surrender his liquor ration book to the ABC board in the county within ten days or go to the roads for a term of thirty days.

Prayer for judgment was again continued in the case charging Mack Woolard with non-support. The case is scheduled for consideration on Monday, March 29th.

The cases charging Charlie Staton with bastardy and Clayton Bailey with drunken and reckless driving were continued until Monday, March 29th.

Elbert Whitehurst pleaded not guilty in the case charging him with disorderly conduct and damaging property. Rating the alleged crime as a felony, Whitehurst was bound over to the superior court for trial next week when probable cause of guilt was found in the case. Bond was required in the sum of \$250.

Walter Jones, colored, pleaded not guilty in the case charging him with an assault with a deadly weapon.

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## Ban On Pleasure Driving Has Not Been Lifted, OPA Warns

With a market up to a warning that the ban on pleasure driving has not been lifted. Enforcement has been called off, temporarily at least, and the people are on their honor not to drive their cars for pleasure. Apparently there has been some misunderstanding in this section, for on a recent night there were 103 automobiles and trucks parked in a single block in Williamston's main street. The car windshields in more than half the cases carried supplemental gas ration stickers, and quite a few of them were trucks. Poker players drive their cars, but a direct ruling was issued by the OPA was received this week under date of March 4, reading, "Driving to attend meetings of church auxiliaries is to be considered non-essential driving except in cases where the meetings are held in the church or other regular place of worship, primarily for worship, prayer, religious study or instruction."

It is apparent that there has been a misunderstanding or else the "honorary system" has lost its meaning when

pleasure and unnecessary driving. A recent ruling also permits driving to attend graduating exercises and commencement ceremonies under the pleasure driving ban by graduating students and their immediate families, school officials and teachers and others who participate in the program. It does not mean that friends or others may drive to those events.

Another ruling reads, "Driving to meetings directly connected with and essential to the occupation of the driver is allowable under the pleasure driving ban. However, such driving may be done only on the Basic 'A' ration. Such mileage is not occupational, and does not qualify for the use of a 'B' or 'C' ration."

Observing the flagrant violation of the honor system by an ever-increasing number of "good" people, many who can see through the mist to the lands where millions are suffering and dying are wondering if the announcement of additional rulings isn't defiled mockery.

## Superior Court Term Reduced to One Week

### HIGH WATER

Fed by rains falling recently in the upper Roanoke basin, the river here is on another rampage. The freshet is no serious one, but it is expected to be from eight to ten inches over its banks by Sunday or Monday and will certainly hamper logging and timbering industries along the stream for several days.

However, it is an ill wind that blows no good. The fishermen are saying that a strong water will invite herrings up the stream in great numbers. And speaking of herrings, reports state that they are being fished up down around Jamesville in fair numbers, that the seine will be placed in the river about the 22nd. Unable to get the nets, Mr. C. C. Fleming, the operator, will combine his nets and start operating first at Jamesville. He hopes to get a new net for Camp Point and start there in early April.

## Martin County Red Cross Chapter Goes Over Top In Drive

### Total of \$4,352.27 Reported And Deposited in Cash In the Bank

The team work of willing canvassers supported by willing contributors has carried the Martin County Chapter of the American Red Cross over the top in its War Fund drive, Chairman V. J. Spivey stating at noon yesterday that a total of \$4,352.27 had been reported in cash and banked. At the present time, the chapter has exceeded its quota by \$452.27, the War Fund drive chairman explaining that unreported and late donations would possibly boost the total to \$4,500 or more.

Every quota has been exceeded to date except the one for the colored citizens, and reports from leaders of that group assure the chairman that the amount and more will be raised within the next day or two.

While the canvassers had the contributors are to be commended for their parts in the drive, it should be remembered that the task was small when measured by the service that awaits to be done. It should be gratifying to those who had a part in the drive to know that the International Red Cross, working in Tokyo, reported a Martin County man still alive a few days ago. Some one's contribution to the organization helped make that message possible, an act that the powerful government of this nation could not do.

According to the latest figures

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### FIXED

Under order of the Price Administration, milk prices in this zone have been fixed at slightly higher levels than they were a short time ago. The order affects fluid milk prices only, it was stated.

The order places the following prices in effect: delivered to homes, 17 cents a quart; retail from stores, 17 cents a quart; wholesale to stores, restaurants, 15 cents a quart, 8 cents a pint, and 4 1/2 cents for half pint.

The new price is only one cent a quart higher than the old schedule here.

## Russians Recapture Vyazma: Encounter With Enemy

### Results in Germany Where Destruction Is Great

The over-all picture of the war is spotted today with good news coming out of Russia being partly offset by bad while the activities on other fronts are recognized as encouraging.

Fighting a determined fight in the Moscow sector, the Russians are said to have recaptured Vyazma, important German base, and opened the way for throwing increased power into the drive toward Smolensk. Throwing 25 fresh divisions into the fight, the Germans are threatening the Russians in the Ukraine, late reports stating that fighting is in progress at the edge of Kharkov. The invaders are suffering terrible losses and the defenders are offering a great fight to stem what has been appearance of a renewed Nazi drive in Russia. Facing superior numbers and battered by tanks and special troops, the Russians were said in last reports to be fighting to the last man.

Over in Tunisia, "Fox" Rommel is believed to be on his way out after tasting costly losses and defeat at the hands of the British Eighth Army to the south of the Mareth line. Little activity is being reported in other areas in Tunisia. American losses in Tunisia includes 59 killed, 176 wounded and 2,007 missing during the period of Feb. 14 to 20. Increased activity pointing to an all-out fight in Africa is being predicted.

Little news is coming from the Pacific where the Japs are said to be displaying an increasing airpower. The Chinese are scoring new successes along the Salween river, but their losses have been heavy in other areas.

The relentless bombing of Germany is getting results. It is now estimated that 2,000 Nazi war factories, including the Krupp plants, have been wrecked and that a million and a quarter Germans have been made homeless in the wake of 12,000 tons of bombs falling on them in the past month.

Reports from France state that a 25,000 man guerrilla army has been formed under a recognized military leader to oppose the Germans that a vast reign of terror for that stricken country is believed imminent. Six hundred Germans have been killed in the Paris area during the past few days.

On the home front, the war is calling for rationing of meats, fats, oils, butter, cheese and canned fish on April 28 at midnight. More liberal rationing of dried prunes, raisins, beans and peas goes into effect tomorrow.

## Service Men To Get Smokes From Lions

By unanimous vote, members of the local Lions Club at their dinner meeting here last night decided to send cigarettes to servicemen now stationed on foreign soil. The members contributed money toward the purchase of 1000 packages of Camels.

It was decided to send the cigarettes to Lion Fred Taylor, and members of his battalion, which is now on active duty somewhere in a foreign theater of war. Fred was the first member of the local club to enlist in the services of his country, and it is felt that it will be heartening to him to know that the local club members are doing this for him and his comrades.

Each package will not bear the usual tax stamp, but instead will carry an appropriate greeting from the Williamston Lions Club.

### PRISONER

Reported missing in action on May 11, 1942, Louis T. Holliday, Martin County young man, was a few days ago reported a prisoner of the Japs, according to an official message received by his sister, Mrs. Lillian Holliday Baker, of Robersonville. The message sent by Rear Admiral Randall Jacobs, Chief of Navy Personnel, reads as follows: "The Navy Department is in receipt of an official cablegram from the International Red Cross in Tokyo, stating that your brother, Louis T. Holliday, machinist's mate, first class, U. S. Navy, is being held a prisoner of war in the Philippine Islands."

Holliday, the first Martin County man to be reported a prisoner of war, enlisted in the Navy in 1925. The certainty of war in April, 1941, when his enlistment expired, caused him to remain at his post. Nothing had been heard from the young man since he was reported missing in the Manila Bay area after Corregidor fell, and it is reasonable to believe that he was in the thick of that great stand made by MacArthur's men.

He is the son of Mrs. W. H. Holliday and the late Mr. Holliday, of Robersonville.

## Martin County Married Men Are Notified By Draft Authorities To Report for Physical Examination

### Authorities To Hear Appeals From Tax Valuations Monday

Sitting as a board of equalization and review, the Martin County Board of Commissioners will hear owners who wish to appeal from valuations assessed against their holdings. The superior court opens its sessions that morning, but the commissioners will find a corner some place in the courthouse to hear any and all complaints. The meeting will be held at 10:00 o'clock, and will be recessed from time to time or as long as it is necessary to hear any and all complaints. Property owners who wish to appeal are cordially urged to enter their complaints next Monday and not wait until the tax books are prepared.

It should be remembered that no revaluation of real properties was effected for the 1943 tax year, and that alterations in values are permissible only in those cases where

changes were made. Fire damages should be included at the meeting Monday and similar losses should be reviewed. Property owners will find that the authorities will and are anxious to hear any appeals in the interest of fairness. While new building was held to a minimum by war conditions last year, there were a few improvements and the commissioners will be glad to review the assessed values in those cases. Owners of timberlands that have been logged during the past year will find it advisable to appear before the board for any adjustments that are necessary to the preparation of a correct and fair listing.

It is generally believed that few complaints will be made, that the tax program in this county is recognized as being about as fair and equitably handled as any in the entire State.

### BY MAIL

## Supply Of Tires Is Not Sufficient To Meet Ration Quota

### More Certificates Are Issued In County By Rationing Board Monday

Even though the available supply is not sufficient to meet the demand, requests for tires continue to pour into the rationing board in this county. Thirty-four applications were granted by the board this week, but it isn't likely that half of them will prove of any value at the present time.

Changes have been made in the tire grades, but no improvement has followed. What is known as the War Tire is once classified as a Grade III tire. It is now listed in the Grade II type. Grade III tires are the used types, it is understood that the manufacture of war tires has been suspended temporarily, at least. As for the Grade III tires, it is understood that an eastern Carolina dealer ordered about 150 of that grade and refused to accept them when they were delivered. He considered them next to useless, it was learned.

New automobile tires were issued to the following:

Z. S. Cowin, RFD 2, Williamston, one tire for farmer-minister.

Jasper Johnson, Robersonville, one tube for pick-up truck for farm.

Archie Latham, Williamston, two new tires for pick-up truck, no classification.

Luther M. Cratt, RFD 2, Williamston, one new tire for pick-up truck for farm.

C. W. Copeland, RFD 1, Palmyra, one tire and one tube for truck for farm.

W. B. Beach, RFD 3, Williamston, four new tires for farm pick-up truck.

Wicomico Lumber Co., Williamston, one tire and one tube for transportation of workers and executives in defense industry.

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## Schedule Blackout Next Friday Night

Recognizing the ineffectiveness of the last test, Civilian Defense Authorities are calling for another test blackout in the State next week. The test will be held in this district on Friday, March 19th.

The first signal will come at 8:50 o'clock. Upon the sounding of the "blue" or two-minute signal, all house and street lights are to be turned out. Traffic may proceed with dim lights and at a speed 15 miles or less. Pedestrians may continue, but should be ready to take cover immediately.

The "red" signal or five short blasts of the fire siren, will come at 9 p. m. and calls for a complete shutdown, cars stop and pedestrians clear the streets. No lights are to be turned on.

A second "blue" signal—a two-minute blast of the siren—will follow at 9:10 o'clock. Pedestrians and traffic may continue after a limited schedule, but no house or street lights are to be turned on until the all-clear is given at 9:22 when the street lights will be turned on.

Announcing the test blackout, John L. Goff, of local civilian defense, warned local people against leaving lights unattended. If you leave home any night, turn out all lights.

With a very few exceptions, the last blackout test in this district was successful, but in others there was much confusion.

## Congressional Law Affecting Farmers Quite Complicated

### Impossible To Include Married Men in March Call; Look Out for April

Notices, numbering possibly 200 or more, are going out for the first time today from the draft board instructing Martin County married men to report for physical examinations the latter part of next week, unofficially on Thursday and Friday, for physical examinations. The order means that married men without children, will, in all probability, be included in the April call. Not only will married men without children be included in the April call, but it is also apparent that they will appear in it in numbers, for it is understood that the call is one of the largest ever received in the county for white men. Whether the draft authorities can meet the quota is another problem, one report stating that the current month quota will certainly not be met in its entirety.

Taking precedence over Selective Service rules, regulations and orders, a congressional law providing for a temporary blanket deferment of all farmers and their possible reclassification from 1-A to 2-C or 3-C is proving indeed complicated for the Draft Board and the County USDA War Board. At the same time, the farmer registrant must act in his own behalf or take a chance on being called into the Army.

Recognizing the importance of the farmer in the war program, the Martin County Draft Board, acting in strict accordance with rules and regulations, has made every effort to defer farmers in those cases where food and feed production was advanced on a reasonable scale. The board prepared a special questionnaire on the basis of the information furnished it effected classifications. A new procedure is being adopted as a result of the new law. The farmer registrant or relatives cannot file a questionnaire. The information necessary for handling classifications is to come from the farm plans filed by farmers the latter part of last January. Right there is where much trouble is developing. Some registrants have changed their addresses and they can't be traced. Some farmers have changed their plans. A few farmers have altered their manpower set-up to make certain their boys will have the necessary production units, and in quite a few cases where the draft questionnaires were compared with the farm plans there are many inconsistencies.

To complicate the muddle even further, the board is now faced with the problem of handling the information furnished it effected classifications. A new procedure is being adopted as a result of the new law. The farmer registrant or relatives cannot file a questionnaire. The information necessary for handling classifications is to come from the farm plans filed by farmers the latter part of last January. Right there is where much trouble is developing. Some registrants have changed their addresses and they can't be traced. Some farmers have changed their plans. A few farmers have altered their manpower set-up to make certain their boys will have the necessary production units, and in quite a few cases where the draft questionnaires were compared with the farm plans there are many inconsistencies.

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## Farm Security Has A Splendid Record For The Past Year

### Borrowers Pay Back Every Penny and Retire Other Debts

For the crop year 1942, the Farm Security Administration loaned \$105,060 to low income farmers of Martin County for the purpose of enabling them to carry on their farming operations. Of this amount, \$80,760 was to be repaid the current year, with the other \$24,300 set up in deferred payments over a period of 3 to 5 years, depending on the farmer's ability to repay.

There was a total of 15,340 in payments coming due on notes that had been deferred in past years, making a total due of \$96,100 for the collection season of 1942. Instead of repaying the amount as set up and stopping at that, FSA borrowers of this county to-date have actually repaid \$122,684.19, or a total of \$26,584.19 ahead, thereby, paying up notes and cutting off interest.

An example of what is meant by deferred payment is shown in the following case: A tenant farmer made application to the FSA for assistance in January, 1942, and on February 25th he procured a 5-year lease from the land owner, allowing him the use of the land on a one-half-share basis. A loan was made to this tenant in the amount of \$860; \$265 was for the purchase of a milk cow, baby chicks and some farm tools, and the remaining \$595 for current farm operations. All of the \$595 was to be repaid in 1942, plus \$50 of the \$265 capital goods loan. The other \$215 was set up to be repaid \$50 in 1943, \$50 in 1944, \$50 in 1945, and \$65 in 1946. Instead of this tenant repaying the \$860 as set up, he repaid the entire \$860, thereby reducing 5 years payments into one.

### TO REPORT

Rev. John W. Hardy, popular rector of the Church of the Advent and a tireless worker on the war's home front, has been notified to report for duty in the armed services on Tuesday, April 6th. The young minister will report to Harvard College, Cambridge, Mass., for his basic training and special courses of instruction. Entering the service as a chaplain, Mr. Hardy doesn't know where he will be located following his preliminary training.