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Pro-Easter Service Schedule Attracts Small Crowds Here

Special Worship Period Will Be Climaxed On Sunday With Sunrise Service

Services in the morning and evening sponsored by the Ministerial Association have been of very high character. The attendance has not come up to expectation. The services at the ... are being held at 10:00 this year, and with such short time after most housewives have gotten their youngsters off to school they are finding it hard to reach the theater in time. No doubt the committee will plan for a later service next year.

On Wednesday morning, Mr. E. S. Peel spoke on the "Silent Day" in Passion Week. Mr. Peel gave it as his opinion that Jesus saw down through the centuries the effect of His message and life. He envisioned Constantine seeing the cross in the setting of the sun on the eve before Malvern Hill, and its accompanying words, "En Hoc Signo Vincas"—in this sign, conquer; also, the Barons forcing from King John, England's Magna Charter at Runnymede; even to include the Atlantic Charter and all future charters for free men. Mr. Peel closed with an eloquent appeal for all Christians to let the mind that was in Jesus be in them and act through them.

Thursday morning, Mr. D. N. Hix, principal of Williamston high school, spoke on "The New Commandment" as given by the Lord Jesus on Thursday of His passion. Mr. Hix expressed the belief that we could never have peace in our world until we had love like Jesus had in His heart for the people of the world.

On Tuesday evening at the Methodist Church, Rev. John L. Goff spoke on "Forgiveness." His message was well received by an appreciative audience. Wednesday, the service was held in the Episcopal Church with Rev. Lewis Schenck, of Edenton, as the guest speaker. Mr. Schenck used as his subject, "What shall I do with Jesus?" The speaker traced what Judas, Peter, Pilate, Herod, Caiaphas and others did with Jesus, and then personalized the question, so as to include his audience. The last service in the theater was held this morning with Rev. John L. Goff as speaker. This evening the service will be held in the Christian Church, Dr. W. R. Burrell, preaching.

The second outdoor Sunrise service will be held in the same place, adjacent to the city cemetery at 6:19 Sunday morning. Many Christians believe this service sets the tenor of their soul for the succeeding services of the day. Persons are asked to drive to Broad Street on the back side of the cemetery where they will be given bulletins for the service. In the event of inclement weather the service will be held in the Memorial Baptist Church. The community is urged to be present for this service. The service schedule is briefly outlined, as follows:

Colored Boys Leave For Induction Post

Approximately fifty Martin County colored draftees left yesterday for their final physical tests at an Army induction center. A few were delinquent, but the exact number and the names could not be learned.

Ordinarily when a group of men leave the latter part of one month, a similar group will leave the early part of the next month, meaning that a fairly sizable number of colored draftees will be called to report in early May.

It was impossible to get a complete list of the names, but among those leaving were Moses Bunch, Oak City; Linwood Whitley, Williamston; James Hawkins, Williamston; Cameron Morris Moore, RFD 1, Jamesville; James Edward Powell, Hamilton; John R. Lawrence, Hamilton; Berkley McIntyre, Williams; Robert Williams, Hamilton; Columbus James, RFD 2, Williams; Clarence Purvis, Hamilton; James ... Williamston and Elizabeth City; Booker T. Lanier, Williamston; Geo. Thurman ... RFD 1, Palmyra; Willie Joe Bunch, Oak City and Richmond; Frank Barber, RFD 1, Jamesville and Washington City; Frank Williams, Williamston; Alonzo Moore, RFD 1, Williamston; Charlie Williams, Williamston; Charles E. Moore, RFD 1, Jamesville; Robert Louis Everett, Williamston; Robert C. Thomas, Williamston; James C. Thomas, Williamston; Norman Sherrard, Oak City and Jamesville Beach; Milton James, RFD 1, Jamesville; Oliver Peel, RFD 1, Jamesville; Robert Henry Beach, Williamston; Martin Whitaker, RFD 1, Jamesville; Geo. Davenport, Jr., Williamston; James Spencer Pippem, RFD 2, Williamston; Leo. Townes, RFD 2, Robersonville; Theodore Lloyd, Jr., Roberson; William Smith, RFD 1, Palmyra and Richmond; Jas. Houghton Hunter, Robersonville; Eugene Teel, Robersonville; Willie Williams, Jr., Robersonville; John Willie Roberson, Robersonville; Richard Smith, Williamston, and Willie Overton Lyons, Williamston.

Manufacture of Grade II Tires Has Been Discontinued

Ration Certificates Are Again Being Issued to Heads of Vehicle Owners

Even though they have ration certificates, vehicle operators are experiencing difficulty in finding car tires, one report stating that the outlook is again gloomy. According to reliable but unofficial information received here, the manufacture of Grade II tires has been discontinued, and an incomplete survey reveals that few or none of those tires are to be had in this section. No official reason for discontinuing the manufacture of the particular type of tires could be had.

The Martin County Rationing Board this week maintained a fairly liberal policy when it came to issuing ration certificates which, it is rumored, are carrying about the same value as an old continental or Confederate note when it comes to getting Grade II and III tires. New automobile and pick-up truck tires and tubes were rationed as follows: Dr. V. E. Brown, Williamston, one tube. Leggett Roebuck, RFD 1, Robersonville, one tire and one tube for farming. American Fork and Hoe Co., Plymouth, care R. Sears, Williamston, two tires and two tubes for transporting men in essential industry. A. Corey, Jamesville, one tire for ministerial work. Geo. Moore, Williamston, one tire for transporting men in essential industry. W. B. Harrington, RFD 1, Williamston, one tire and one tube for ministerial work.

(Continued on page six)

Local Young Woman Joining The WAACs

Miss Elizabeth Lucille Cowan, local young woman, enrolled in the Woman's Army Auxiliary Corps last Saturday, according to an announcement just released by the Armed Forces Induction Station at Fort Bragg. Miss Cowan will make it possible for another soldier to be released for active combat duty, it was explained.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Onley Cowan, of Williamston, Miss Cowan was one of several Martin County young women to volunteer their services in the WAACs when a special recruiting party visited here a short time ago. As far as it could be learned, Miss Cowan was the only one to pass the entrance requirements.

According to the best records available, the county is now represented in the WAACs by three young women. Mrs. Effie Griffin Sparrow, of Williamston and Norfolk, volunteered some months ago, and Miss Hennie Gurganus, of Williamston, enrolled more recently in the service.

Finals Program In The Local Schools

Commencement exercises for the Williamston High School begin next Sunday evening, April 25th, at 8:15 o'clock when Rev. B. T. Hurley of the Methodist Church will preach the baccalaureate sermon. Special music will be sung by the junior chorus of seventh and eighth grade students. On Thursday evening, April 29th, at 8:30 in the evening the graduating exercises will be held with forty-five graduates receiving their diplomas and special awards being presented.

The final exercises will be a student program, the seniors planning and conducting their own graduating exercises.

Both exercises will be held in the high school auditorium.

Commencement marshals chosen on a basis of scholarship are as follows: Tenth grade: Chief, Joseph Wynne; Ninth grade: Goff, David Roberson; Eighth grade: Pearl Newborn, Sylvia Green, Francis Griffin; Eighth grade: Richard Levin, Louise Griffin.

Government To Make Corn Available In This Area

According to information coming from the United States Department of Agriculture, the Commodity Credit Corporation will ship corn from the Western States to this area for a price of about \$1.25 per bushel.

The announcement said that corn may be purchased by farmers, dealers, feed mixers and processors through the normal trade channels on the basis of \$1.25 1-4 per bushel delivered.

Religion Held a Place in the Superior Court Schedule Here This Week When Judge R. D. Dixon Recessed the Last Wednesday Morning Session Until 10:30 o'clock for Lawyer E. S. Peel to Conduct the Special Pre-Easter Worship Service in the Theater.

RECESS

There have been times when jurists recessed the court for fishing trips and many other events, but as far as the old boys around the hall of justice could recall, the recess this week was the first ordered in deference to religion.

And the judge and a few lawyers attended the service, but not all of the courthouse force could quit their tasks at the hour.

Machines Allotted To Martin Farmers By Board Recently

Return of the Wagon to Martin County Farms Seen in Ration List

Maintaining a policy as liberal as the quotas would permit, the Martin County Farm Machinery Rationing Board hardly scraped the surface during the past few days in meeting the demand for plows, machines and general farm equipment. Two dozen items were rationed where possibly hundreds are needed to replace badly-worn machines and to maintain maximum production to the most economical advantage.

After virtually disappearing, the wagon is returning to Martin County farms. The trend is marked by small numbers only, but nevertheless the return is reflected in the latest ration list released by the county farm machinery board.

Machines and various other pieces of farm equipment were rationed recently in this county to the following:

- W. F. Barber, RFD 1, Williamston, wagon
- Standard Fertilizer Co., Williamston, potato grader
- E. C. Edmondson, Hassell, Cole Planter
- Mack D. Leggett, RFD 2, Williamston, John Deere tractor
- Coy J. Roberson, Williamston, peanut planter
- T. W. Holliday, Jamesville, peanut planter
- Leonard C. Bennett, RFD 2, Williamston, wagon
- J. L. Holliday and R. D. Holliday, RFD 1, Williamston, wagon
- R. L. Smith, Robersonville, section harrow
- John H. Roberson, RFD 2, Williamston, walking gang plow
- W. G. Peele, Williamston, walking gang plow
- J. R. Rogers, RFD 2, Williamston, section harrow
- Lee Hardison, Williamston, bush and bog harrow
- John W. Gurkin, RFD 2, Williamston, bush and bog harrow
- G. E. Martin, Jamesville, power sprayer
- J. N. Hopkins, Williamston, Boyette Sprayer
- Robert Williams, Robersonville, two horse walking cultivator
- S. H. Mobley, RFD 2, Williamston, peanut planter
- E. H. Harrell, Oak City, Cole planter
- Jarvis Perkins, RFD 1, Robersonville, combination planter
- S. L. Long, Sanford, peanut planter

Finals Schedule In Bear Grass School

The first in the series of closing exercises in the Bear Grass school will be held Sunday morning at 11 o'clock when Dr. H. S. Hilley, president of Atlantic Christian College, preaches the commencement sermon in the school auditorium. Special music will be rendered by the choir and Bear Grass Trio.

On Thursday night, April 29th, at 8:30 o'clock, the final graduation exercises will be held in the school auditorium. Mr. T. O. Hickman, principal, will present the diplomas. Due to the gas rationing, the Class Day exercises will be combined with the graduation exercises, the program being made up of speeches by the honorary members of the class. The seniors receiving diplomas are: Vernon Roebuck, valedictorian; Sybil Peele, salutatorian; Heywood Mobley, historian; Grace Bailey, Delsie Harrison, Luke Mizelle, and Wade Mobley. Pete Rogers, who would have graduated with this class, left in January to attend the Oak Ridge Military Institute.

The marshals serving this year are: Lorene Rogerson, Mildred Wobleton, Dillon Cherry and Gene Rogers.

Court Finishes Its Work and Quits for Term Wednesday

Total of Eleven Divorces Are Granted During the Past Two Weeks Here

Completing its work, the Martin County Superior Court folded its tent and quit for the term here on Wednesday afternoon. No large number of cases was cleared from the docket during the term, but several issues were relieved and the bonds of matrimony were shattered in eleven cases.

After getting off to a slow start last week when sessions were limited to a few minutes daily during the early part of the period and suspended in their entirety later in the period, the court last Monday cranked up the divorce mill and cranked out seven divorce cases. Two more were added to the list Tuesday, boosting the total for the term to eleven, five divorces going to white and six to colored couples. Based on two years of separation, the divorces granted Tuesday were, as follows: William L. Hadley against Lydia Marie Hadley, and Mrs. Perlie Stocks against Josh W. Stocks.

Other proceedings in the court: In the case of Standard Fertilizer Company against C. M. Thomas, the jury gave the plaintiff a judgment in the sum of \$223.01 with interest from October 1, 1939.

Suing J. S. Godard for damage to woodland by fire as a result of the negligence of the defendant's agents, Thomas Brown was awarded a judgment in the sum of \$112, Mrs. Dare Brown one for \$162, and S. L. Ellis a judgment in the sum of \$426. Notice of appeal to the supreme court was given, the court requiring an appeal bond in the sum of \$75 and a stay bond of \$700. The defendant has forty days to perfect his appeal.

The case of J. D. Williams against (Continued on page six)

Holding Last Rites This Afternoon for Mrs. Wm. T. Grimes

Prominent Native of County Dies at Home of Son Wednesday in Albany, Ga.

Funeral services are being conducted in St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Hamilton, this afternoon, at 5 o'clock for Mrs. Nona Walda Grimes, native of this county, who died at the home of her son in Albany, Georgia, Wednesday. The Rev. Mr. Brogden, Scotland Neck minister, will conduct the last rites, and interment will follow in the family plot in the Hamilton Cemetery.

Mrs. Grimes suffered a cerebral hemorrhage about two weeks ago, her condition gradually growing weaker until the end.

The daughter of the late Joseph Waldo and wife, Mrs. Grimes was born in Hamilton on September 18, 1867. Her family was prominent in education, and civic and religious work in the county for many years, and she was a member of the Episcopal Church since childhood. In early womanhood she was married to Wm. T. Grimes, and they later moved to Baltimore where he was connected with an insurance company for some time. When his health began to fail, they returned to Hamilton where he died about thirty years ago. Since that time, Mrs. Grimes made her home with her sons, spending some time in Rocky Mount, but most of those years in Georgia.

She leaves two sons, Waldo Grimes, of Washington City, and William Grimes, of Albany, and a grandson, Lt. W. T. Grimes, of Morehead City. She also leaves two sisters, Mrs. H. M. Ballard and Miss Effie Waldo, of Hamilton.

(Continued on page six)

Visit Bear Grass Observation Post

The Bear Grass Observation Post had some official visitors from the Ground Observer Section Headquarters at ... The first visit was on Sunday night about 12:30. The post was very highly commended and Sgt. Lehner, in charge of the visit, said the past was one of the nicest he has seen anywhere.

They paid a second visit to the post on Tuesday morning and took some pictures of the post.

We regret very much to report that our chief observer, Mr. T. O. Hickman, is leaving the post at the end of the school term. He has given much time and effort to the post in order to keep it going. The assistant chief observers will be in charge of the post until a new chief observer is appointed.

The classes in Aircraft Recognition taught by Miss Naomi Brown, are progressing very nicely. At the present time the class has learned 21 planes, all that have been available up until the present time; however, the remaining silhouette posters of the planes have now been obtained. Due to the closing of school there will be no meeting next week, but we will start a new class Monday night, May 3. Every observer is urged to be present, whether he intends to take the course or not.

HE MEANS ...

Asked by a friend if he was leaving for the Army yesterday morning, an impudent Negro youth blurted out that he was never going. He was one of those detestable wise guys who disgusts everyone, even members of his own race.

It was reckoned that the scoundrel was too big for the Army, but a member of his own race explained the situation when he said, "He just means they are going to carry him to the Army."

With the one exception, the group of colored men leaving the county for the induction center was about as well-behaved and considerate of decency, law and order as any bunch of men to go from this section.

Farm Registrants Are Classified This Week

About One-Third of The Group Placed in "C" Classifications

Meeting here last Monday night, the Martin County Draft Board reviewed 284 farm registrants' cases after the County War Board had checked the farm records in each individual case. Approximately one-third of the group was placed in the "C" classification, 2-C for single men and 3-C for married men, meaning they are "frozen" to their jobs. While it appears that all the others, or most of them at least, are in the 1-A group, some of them are married with children and are actually in the 3-A classification. However, as far as farming is concerned, they are in 1-A at the present. A registrant's married status and other factors will be considered before final classification is made.

Out of 284 cases handled by the board, farmers qualified for the "C" classifications in 93 of them. Two others were placed in the 2-A group on account of dairying activities. In the 189 cases where the registrants were continued in the 1-A group, it is believed that a goodly number of the men can and will qualify for the "C" rating by altering their farming operations and plans slightly. In quite a few cases, the registrants missed the goal by just a few units, some by as few as one and one and a half units.

While it is apparent that farming does not offer a blanket deferment, it is also apparent that numbers of farmers can and are qualifying for the "C" classifications under the production unit plan.

Those registrants whose cases were reviewed will be advised of their status by the County War Board.

(Continued on page six)

Eighth Army Drives Ahead Doggedly To Oust Axis In Africa

Fierce Fighting Breaks Out On Eastern Front Again In Past Few Days

Despite a determined and last ditch resistance offered by Rommel's Axis gang, the British Eighth Army is pushing forward doggedly in a last drive to oust the enemy from Africa. Following a recent lull, the Allies started the drive now underway earlier in the week, but the going is apparently tough, latest dispatches indicating that hardly more than six or seven miles had been gained in about three days of fierce fighting.

Allied armies were tightening both ends of their siege as about the Axis in Tunisia as the First Army on the northeast front advanced to within 24 miles of Tunis, beating off powerful counter-attacks which cost the Axis 27 tanks and 500 prisoners.

With clearing weather, air forces gave strong support today to the British armies in the two battles being fought 45 miles apart.

British paratroopers are serving as infantry in the front line fighting. It was disclosed officially as the battle grew to a peak of bitterness never before equalled in Africa, particularly on the Eighth Army front, where hand grenades and bayonets were brought into play.

Even these weapons were thrown away in yesterday's battle to clean out Axis nests at Takrouna and on surrounding heights just west of Enfidaville, Ned Russell of the United Press, reported from the front. Axis troops refused to surrender even when the British had driven them to the brow of the cliff and many were hurled over bodily.

With Takrouna's fall, the Eighth Army was able to accelerate its advance and late reports said its vanguard had reached a point four miles north of Enfidaville inside the Axis mountain defense ring.

As the concerted Allied drives ground away the Axis Tunisian bridgehead bit by bit, the Germans were reported using their best troops in repeated, but unavailable counter-attacks which brought about serious losses for both sides.

Further to the north, the British First Army launched an offensive yesterday, reports today stating that several important hills had been captured.

The fighting in Tunisia is taking a heavy toll in lives and equipment (Continued on page six)

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Decree Rules Out Labor Pirating In Vital Industries

Manpower Commission Virtually Freezes Workers in Major Essential Jobs

A decree, more or less drastic and far-reaching in scope, was handed down by Manpower Commissioner McNutt this week, freezing, or virtually so, all workers in the major essential industries. While it is possible for a worker to change jobs, he is warned that he must abide by certain rules and regulations or accept the consequences, namely, a fine ranging up to \$1,000 or a year in prison or both. The order applies to employers, too.

The order is limited to "essential" jobs, meaning that the shifting from one essential job to another for higher pay is virtually a thing of the past. It should be noted that a person working at a non-essential job has the right to change his job at his own discretion either for another non-essential job or for one in the essential list.

Anyone, of course, can quit a war or essential job for a non-war or non-essential job subject to his own ideas of his war-time responsibilities and to possible reclassification by his draft board. If he quits his essential job for thirty days, he is free under the order to move back into an essential job at higher pay. It is also possible for a worker in an essential job to transfer to another essential job and for higher pay if he can get a certificate from his old employer stating that his services are no longer needed. And an employer is required to issue such a certificate whenever an employee is fired, laid off for more than seven days, or can establish that his present employment does not utilize him at his highest skill or that he is not being worked full time.

The order, it was pointed out, does not prevent promotions, upgrading of wage and salary increases for the man in a war industry who stays with his present employer. Those types of promotions are subject to War Labor Board regulations, just as the relations between employer and employee are handled. In other words, if there is any grievance or friction between employer and worker, the worker is privileged to quit, but not to enter another essential industry until his case has either been cleared by the commission or at the expiration of thirty days.

Rumors of labor pirating in this immediate section have been heard during the past few days, but no definite details could be had.

As for the "essential" industries, the manpower commission lists them under about thirty-five heads. Most of them center around big manufacturing industries, but they include: Agriculture and commercial fishing; processing of food, such as meat-packing and slaughtering; forestry, logging and lumbering; fertilizer manufacturing; construction, including highway and street; production of finished lumber products such as baskets and boxes; transportation services, including rail, truck and bus and stevedoring, trucking; communication services, including telephone, telegraph, radio and newspapers; repair services, including about everything from motor vehicles down to typewriters, (Continued on page six)

Noted Speaker To Address Meeting

A special parent-teacher program is scheduled for the grammar school auditorium next Tuesday evening, April 27th, at 8:30 o'clock when Dr. R. H. Crossfield, president emeritus of Transylvania College in Kentucky, will speak. Dr. Crossfield has traveled widely in the Orient and is eminently qualified to speak on the culture of the peoples of the East.

Albert Peel will introduce the speaker.

A special feature of the program will be the dedication of the new stage improvements at the grammar school. Recently remodeled and equipped with beautiful curtains, the grammar school auditorium, the scene of many commencement in years gone by, presents an entirely new appearance.

The improvements will be dedicated to the memory of the late Mrs. Betty Harrell, former teacher in the local high school.

Pupils of Mrs. Harrell are especially urged to be present.

Mrs. Meyer Levin, incoming president of the parent-teacher association, will preside over the meeting.

Oak City Observers Hear Chas. Lehner

Speaking to the Oak City post observers last Monday evening, Sgt. Chas. Lehner, instructor in aircraft recognition at the Army school, Virginia Beach, stressed the importance of the observation system. While it is important to be able to recognize and identify the various types of aircraft, one can still be a good post observer without having that knowledge, the instructor told a large crowd gathered in the Oak City high school auditorium.

The sergeant explained that one million and one hundred thousand citizens were volunteering their services in manning the posts in this country, that their work is making it possible for more planes to be relieved from patrol work and that it was relieving the Army of a big task.

Recently completing a series of classes in aircraft recognition, Assistant Chief Observer Nat Johnson opened a second school for his observers this week.

Hook And Line Fishing Ban Lifted For Easter

A special order issued by the State Department of Conservation is lifting the ban on hook and line fishing in inland waters Sunday and Monday, April 25 and 26, it was announced today by Game Warden Bill Abbott.

The problem of getting gas for the trips will be solved in the fisherman's own way, the warden explained.

Lions Give Supper To Men of Service

Members of the local Lions Club were hosts last Monday evening at a delicious rock muddle. Guests of the occasion were the local men who left the following day or later to begin working for Uncle Sam, either as a soldier or a sailor.

Among those leaving are four members of the club, John Eagles, the club's efficient secretary; Roger Critcher and Ruper Cowan are all slated to become bluejackets, while R. Edwin (Flip) Peele is in the Army now. Flip is one of the charter members of the local club, and has been very active in its progress.

No regular fourth Thursday meeting of the club was held this week, since the supper Monday night took the place of it.

Funeral Held Here Last Monday For Infant Son

Funeral services were conducted at the home here last Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock for Clifton Warren, six-month-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Warren, Rev. B. T. Hurley, Methodist minister, officiated. Interment was in the local cemetery.

Announce Services In Vernon Methodist Church

Beginning next Monday evening at 8 o'clock, Rev. B. T. Hurley will conduct a series of evangelistic services in the Vernon Methodist church near here on the old Everetts Road. The services will continue for a week or ten days, and the public is invited to attend.