

## Man Killed By Hit And Run Driver on Highway in County

### George Purvis, Poplar Point Tenant Farmer, Loses Life; No Clue in the Case

George Purvis, 33-year-old colored tenant farmer on the Taylor farm in Poplar Point Township, was struck and instantly killed by a hit-and-run driver near his home on the Hamilton Highway late last Saturday night or early Sunday morning. Despite an all-night search, Patrolmen Saunders and Hunt were unable to establish a lead in the case. The only clue found so far was offered by John Bullock, colored tenant who lived near by the scene of the killing. He was on the front porch of the home and heard the car when it struck the man. He could not identify the vehicle, but he said it carried a fish net on it and was traveling toward Williamston. With that information, the patrolmen checked the river from here to Jamesville, but made no progress toward solving the case.

Purvis left Williamston between 9:30 and 10 o'clock on a bus. He visited Edwards' Log Cabin filling station where he bought and consumed three bottles of beer. He was last seen at the station about 10:30 o'clock and was said to have been drinking heavily at that time. According to his brother, the victim was not so drunk that he could not walk. Where he went to when he left the station could not be learned, but he was only a few hundred yards away when he was struck and killed.

Travelling the road about 1:30 o'clock, Hubert Smith, a local man, saw the body and reported to officers. Coroner S. R. Biggs accompanied the patrolmen to the scene. According to the coroner, the man's body was badly mangled, indicating that the victim was lying on the hard surface when he was struck. The man's back and neck were broken, one shoulder was almost torn from the body and his overalls were reduced to rags. The neck of a liquor bottle, the seal broken, was found in his pocket.

The hit-and-run driver, leaving the body lying in the road, increased his speed and continued on toward Williamston.

It was the fourth fatal highway accident reported in the county so far this year, and the second in two weeks.

## Uniform Speed Law Is Adopted by State

Following months of confusion and uncertainty of enforcement, the North Carolina Council of State, after much delay and a great deal of wrangling, has adopted a uniform speed law of 35 miles an hour for the State. The law, created by the governor and council of state under powers granted under the Emergency War Power Act, becomes effective on Thursday of this week. A special speed law of 15 miles an hour and regulations for car lighting were also adopted for those areas on and near the Carolina coast.

Placed on their honor, some motorists exceeded the limit in the past and literally thumbed their noses at patrolmen when questioned. After Thursday noon, violators are subject to arrest.

In his speed limit proclamation Governor Broughton stated that the suspension and modification of the vehicle laws "are in my judgment in the public interest and are necessary for the protection of the lives and property of the State, and for the defense and security of the State and nation, and for the proper conduct of the war and the successful prosecution thereof."

Secretary of State Thad Eure, by order of the Council of State, has ordered 2,000 copies of the proclamation printed and distributed to judicial and law enforcement agencies throughout the State.

## Victims Of Tornado Get Red Cross Help

Their homes wrecked by a tornado that swept over a small area in the Angetown section of this county a short time ago, the families of Arthur Ange and James Perkins were proffered aid by the American Red Cross yesterday, it was learned following a visit by Miss Juliet France, Field Director for the organization.

Exact figures could not be had officially, but it is understood that the Ange family was allowed about \$250 for furniture wrecked in the tornado, \$1,629 toward the construction of a new home and about \$40 for doctor's bills. In all probability, Mr. Ange would have had to mortgage a major portion of his farm to replace his home and buildings, but with the Red Cross stepping in it is likely that he'll be able to handle the rehabilitation program without much difficulty.

The Perkins family had no interest in the house in which they lived, but they were allowed about \$76 to replace clothing and furniture lost in the storm.



ONE OF THE THOUSANDS of Germans who have lost their lives under the burning African sun, this soldier's body hangs from the turret of the armored tank that provided no armor against death. Rommel's strength proved no match for Allied might. (International)

### WOUNDED

Reuben Thomas Ward, young son of Mr. Jesse Ward, Robersonville Township farmer, was seriously wounded while in action over in Tunisia about the ninth of last month, according to an official message received by Mr. Ward from the Adjutant General yesterday. Few details were carried in the message, but it was pointed out that further reports on his condition could be expected.

Entering the service last August, the young man had been in North Africa only a short time before he was wounded.

A brother, Dennis Ward, is also in the service and at the present time is on maneuvers in Louisiana.

## New Farm and Home Agents Begin Work In County Monday

### L. L. McLendon Succeeding J. I. Eagles as Assistant To Tom Brandon

Two changes, one directly traceable to the war, were made on the home agricultural front this week when Miss Mildred Pigg succeeded Miss Lora E. Sleeper as Martin County home agent, and when L. L. McLendon was added to the county agent's staff to succeed John Ivey Eagles as assistant to Tom Brandon. Miss Sleeper, resigning the position she had held for more than sixteen years, left this morning to be with her parents in New Hampshire. McLendon was appointed Monday to fill the position made vacant when Mr. Eagles was called into active service by the U. S. Navy.

Reporting for work last Saturday, Miss Pigg has, since her arrival, spent a greater part of her time studying office records and schedules prepared by her predecessor. For the present, at least, the old schedule of activities will be maintained by the new agent with possibly a few minor changes. A native of Mecklenburg County, Miss Pigg comes to Martin highly qualified in the field of home economics. She was graduated from the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, and taught in the Lexington High School for three years. During the past eleven months she was associated with the vocational education program in Concord.

Mr. McLendon, an old hand in county agent's work, comes to this county from Kenansville, down in Duplin. A graduate of State College, Raleigh, he served Duplin as its agent for about twenty years, resigning a few years ago to go with the Farm Security Administration and later with the Triple A program. Anxious to get back into extension work, he accepted the position in this county and is expected to continue the work for the duration. Mr. McLendon has three sons, J. C., L. L., Jr., and W. J., in the county. (Continued on page six)

### HALF HOLIDAYS

Beginning tomorrow, local stores and other places of business will close each Wednesday afternoon during the next several months. The half-holiday schedule will include county and town offices and most all places of business other than those directly or indirectly connected with the war effort.

With Victory gardens to care for and more work needed in and around the homes and yards, clerks and other employees can use the half day to marked advantage. Housewives and other shoppers are asked to note the new holiday schedule and cooperate with the merchants.

## TOWN - FARM IN WARTIME

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

### War Expenditures—1918 and 1943

In 1918 American war expenditures were only 13 1-2 billion dollars—in 1943 they will exceed 100 billion dollars. These figures show sharply the difference in cost between the last war and this one. There were four liberty and one victory loan drives in the last war, with a total goal of less than 19 billion dollars, but to finance the present war the people of the United States must raise about 70 billion dollars before the end of this year. In that war, our task was chiefly to fortify a line of trenches in France—in this war we must equip and supply our armies on all the far-flung battlefields of the world.

### Change in Tire Ration

Effective May 1, passenger car drivers with mileage rationings exceeding 240 monthly are eligible for any grade of new tire when their present casings are not recappable. Formerly, grade I casings were reserved principally for drivers with mileage rationings over 560 monthly.

### Job Records of High School Students

To help high school students find their proper place in the army (or in war industry), each one will soon be asked to make a card record of his school and job history. These "educational experience summary record" cards will contain such information as a student's academic standing and achievement, vocational and pre-induction preparation, wage earning experience, aptitudes, significant hobbies and social security number.

### Casualty Totals

Announced casualties of the United States armed forces from the outbreak of the war to date (whose next of kin have been notified) total 78,235. This total, arrived at by combining war and navy reports, includes—dead, 12,123; wounded, 15,049; missing 40,435; and prisoners of war, 10,628.

### Tire, Car, Bicycle Quotas

The national quota of new passenger car tires for rationing in May is 1,006,882, compared with 1,058,000 for April. Certificates for purchase of these tires go to drivers whose mileage rationings exceed 240 miles monthly and who do not have recappable casings. New passenger cars in May total 50,000 compared with an April allotment of 38,000. The bicycle quota for May is 88,200, unchanged from April.

### Replacements for Tractor Tires

Replacement tires can be obtained for farm tractors where there are no recapping facilities available, the OPA has announced. Formerly, no

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## Russo-Japanese War Believed Inevitable

Asked about the relationship between Russia and Japan, Dr. R. H. Crossfield in an open forum in the grammar school auditorium here last Tuesday evening, stated that in his opinion war between Russia and Japan is inevitable. "Either one of them will pounce on the other at the drop of the hat," the lecturer-minister declared.

Pacts now existing between Russia and Japan are serving as a matter of convenience while both nations are busy handling other irons in the fire, the speaker said.

Continuing the discussion on Russia, Dr. Crossfield said that there is little doubt but that Germany would be in London, New York and Williamston today had it not been for Russia. He referred to the Russians as a great people, and that bolshevism and atheism were on the way out and that the nation is well on the road to democracy.

It is Mr. Crossfield's belief that the Japs will bomb American soil the first opportunity they get, that they will come through Mexico. He has no idea that Japan will conquer the United States.

### Navy Recruiter Is Now At Williamston Post Office

U. S. Navy Recruiter, D. R. Taylor, is stationed at the post office in Williamston. Mr. Taylor opened his office Monday, May 3, and will remain through Wednesday, May 5th. All persons seeking information concerning the Navy, Waves or Spars are cordially invited to come to the post office on the above dates between the hours of 8 a. m. and 6 p. m.

### ROUND-UP

Local and county officers had another busy week-end rounding up alleged violators, mostly drunks. Nine persons were arrested and jailed during the period, five for alleged drunkenness, two for drunken driving, one for larceny and one under an old charge.

Four of the nine were white men, the ages of the nine ranging from 29 to 50 years.

## Liberal Allotment New Auto Tires Given County For May

Apparently uncertain of the future for synthetic rubber, rationing authorities are switching to new car tire stocks to keep the nation's approximately 21 million autos running. A liberal allotment of new car tires has been given this county for the current month, but the over-all picture is not as bright as it was a month ago. The county is to get 154 new car tires, 122 Grade III car tires, 67 new truck tires and two farm implement tires during May, or a total of 345 tires. Last month, the county was allotted a total of 577 tires, including all types for cars and trucks. While approximately 60 more new car tires are to be rationed this month than last, the total is well over 200 short of the ration allotment for April.

It is estimated that there are seven million new car tires in stock at the present time, or about one new tire for every three cars. Retailers have been advised by one manufacturer that it hasn't a single new car

tire in stock in the South. Thrown open to car operators during more than 240 miles a month, the stock of new tires is being depleted rapidly as the grade I certificates multiply in the hands of consumers. The supply of Grade II tires was virtually exhausted last month, and the No. II grade certificates are now good for the purchase of Grade I tires. Boiled down to a final analysis, the tire situation still is a bit gloomy. There are enough No. II certificates in the county to exhaust the supply of the No. I tires even before the first of the May rations are cared for. Several retailers are said to have already exhausted their stocks.

On the national front, Undersecretary of War Patterson declares that the synthetic program has already cost eight million barrels of high octane aviation gas, and there is some talk that equipment and material used in making synthetic rubber will be switched for use in making more high octane gas.

## Slight Decrease In Marriages Reported In County in April

### Despite War and All That, the Number Continues to Hold Almost To Average

The number of marriages in this county last month was considerably below the count in March, but despite war and everything that is blocking Cupid in his efforts, the license issuance for the period was only two points below the average for the month of April over a ten-year period. Up until last month, the number of marriage licenses issued in the county was greater than it was for the corresponding month in last year, and judging from the records, Cupid is making about as much progress in his work now despite war and changes as he made just prior to the war.

Marriage licenses were issued last month by Register of Deeds J. Sam Getsinger to the following:

**White**  
James David Hollis, of Robersonville, and Mary Jane Harrison, of Stokes.

Conner Cowin, RFD 2, Williamston, and Louise Ayers, RFD 1, Robersonville.

Ellis D. Johnson, of Camp Gordon, Ga., and Marjorie Edmondson, of Robersonville.

William Garland Perry and Mrs. Lydia L. Griffin, both of RFD 1, Williamston.

Lt. Leonard E. Nagel, of Blue Island, Ill., and Marjorie DeJean Lally, of Williamston.

Joseph Brake Roberson and Beatrice Earl Vick, both of Robersonville.

**Colored**  
Woodrow Wrisby and Fannie Manning, both of Williamston.

Moses Bunch and Emma Dell Parker, both of Oak City.

King David Latham and Velma Dickens, both of Robersonville.

Wm. Henry Nichols, RFD 1, Williamston, and Ethel Mae Reid, of Williamston.

Technical Sergeant William Louis Riddick, of RFD 1, Williamston and Fairbanks, Alaska, and Norma Jones, of Williamston.

Samuel Lee Purvis, RFD 3, Williamston, and Lula Rhodes, of RFD 3, Williamston.

Eddie Golphin and Daisy Bonds, both of Williamston.

Eli Carr and Lizzie May Keel, both of Robersonville.

## Colored Draftees To Leave Soon for Army

Some over half hundred colored draftees are scheduled to leave the county this week for an Army induction center, according to information gained from some of the draftees themselves. No official report on the colored draftees leaving the county week before last is available at this time, but according to one source of information only a small percentage of the group was accepted.

In accordance with new Selective Service regulations, the names of the men will be made public following their departure. A short time ago, the names were ordered withheld.

A draft call for white men, unofficially described to be about as large as the one received in April, is to be answered the latter part of this month, and that it will be followed in June by a call equally as large if not larger than the one for May. Whether the draft board can meet the quotas remains to be seen.

### ADDRESSES

With the names of more than 500 Martin County service men on its mailing list, The Enterprise is having one big time trying to keep up with all the addresses. Every subscriber, and especially the service men, are asked to mention their last address when writing in to have the paper changed to a new address. The address changes are gladly made, but it will be of great aid to the boys in the shop if they have the last address. Service men are asked to drop the paper a card when they change their address. In many cases, the boys explain they are leaving and do not know where they are going, and suggest that the paper be stopped until they get the new address. That is a good idea, and the management appreciates the thoughtfulness of those who have been so kind to advise such action be taken.

## Charles W. Cowey, Native of County, Passes in Hospital

### Funeral Services Held at Late Home Near Oak City on Sunday Afternoon

Charles W. Cowey, respected citizen of the Oak City section, died in a Durham hospital early last Friday following a long illness. Mr. Cowey entered the hospital on April 21 and underwent a major operation a short time later. He had been in declining health for some time.

The son of the late William and Mary Rawls Cowey, he was born in the Oak City section of this county 68 years ago. After spending his early life on the farm he entered the employ of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company, retiring a few years ago following a long period of faithful service. Following his retirement there he centered his time and attention on farming, but he was virtually forced to retire from that task by failing health. Mr. Cowey was a member of the Free Will Baptist Church for many years, and was regarded as an upright and dependable citizen, one who valued life's basic ideals and the friendship and confidence of his fellowman.

He married twice, leaving six children by his first wife. Their names are, Mrs. T. H. Latham, of Faison; Luther Cowey, of Hobgood; Mrs. Reba Melburn, of Eure, N. C.; Mrs. Ida Whitfield, of Oak City, and Mrs. Della Hardy, of Palmyra. His second wife survives with the following children, Kelly B. Cowey and Clyde Cowey, both of the U. S. Armed Services; Francis, Bennie Lee and Maggie E. Cowey.

Mr. Cowey had lived in the Oak City community all his life as did his parents before him. Services were conducted at the home Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock and burial was in the family cemetery near the home.

### NO EXCHANGING

Unable to find Grade III tires, many holders of certificates for that type of tire ratings are appealing to and urging the rationing board in this county to exchange the certificates and give them rations for Grade I tires.

Chairman C. C. Martin pointed out today that the board has no authority to change the certificates, that a man who has a gas allotment allowing 240 miles or less could get only a Grade III tire certificate. It is true that holders of Grade II certificates are now eligible for Grade I tires but they were favored by a change in the grade schedule and not by any change in the eligibility ratings.

## Hold Short Meeting On Monday Morning

### An Estimated \$400,000 Gain In Property Values Reported by Tax Supervisor

It was a day of little business for the county commissioners when they met in regular session here yesterday. Routine matters were handled rapidly and following an impromptu discussion of various topics relating to the county, the group adjourned about the noon hour.

Other than the routine business, the minutes of the meeting carry few entries. Tax Supervisor C. D. Cartstphen, explaining that accurate figures were not yet available, estimated that the property valuation for 1943 would reflect a gain of slightly more than \$400,000 over those for the past year. Valuations and budgets will come in for discussion possibly at the next meeting and some long sessions are to be expected. It was learned that the welfare budget had been tentatively approved but in part only. The figures are virtually the same as they were for the fiscal year ending June 30, and will be reviewed in their entirety before the budget is formally approved.

The board unanimously voted a leave of absence for John I. Eagles, assistant farm agent, the leave to last for the duration or as long as Mr. Eagles is in the service. L. L. McLendon, of Duplin County, was appointed to succeed Mr. Eagles, the county voting a supporting salary in the sum of \$85.

Reporting to the board on the eve of the time set for advertising delinquent tax accounts, Collector M. Luther Peel pointed out that only about \$16,500 of the \$213,521.97 levy for 1942 had been uncollected, that the uncollected balance was several thousand dollars below the balance due and unpaid on 1941 taxes as of October 1, last year. In other words, the advertising list when it appears next week will be smaller than it was last year even though the collection schedule has been advanced five months. The delinquent list will be prepared the latter part of this week for publication next week. A final warning is being issued to the delinquents today by Collector Peel.

The 1941 levy is now 97.6 per cent collected, leaving an unpaid balance of \$5,068.14. The 1940 levy has been (Continued on page six)

## Place Wife-Killer Under \$1,000 Bond

Sheppard Spruill, 50-year-old colored man who shot and killed his 29-year-old wife, Katherine, near Oak City on Sunday, April 25, was placed under a \$1,000 bond following a preliminary hearing before Justice J. L. Hassell here last Saturday morning. Unable to raise the amount, Spruill was returned to jail to await trial in the county's superior court next month.

Spruill offered no testimony at the hearing, but according to one report the man has changed his story. He first maintained that he was shooting at a snake and accidentally hit and fatally wounded his wife. He is now claiming that he shot the woman in self-defense. According to Spruill's latest version of the shooting, the wife was chasing him with an axe.

There are several angles to the attack that have not been cleared up as yet. How the woman got into the house after she was shot has not been explained. Officers believe she walked there since blood was found in more than one room of the house. And it has not been explained why Spruill allowed the woman to lie there and die without calling a doctor. During that time, Spruill took a seat on the front porch and waited for the "law" to take him, and there are those who can't understand that.

## Next Army Call To Get Jimmy Brown

Passing his physical "screening" test a few weeks ago, Jimmie Brown Martin County's contribution to national baseball, is now subject to induction call by the Army the latter part of this month or in early June, it was unofficially learned this week.

Scheduled to take his screening test here some weeks ago, Brown asked for a transfer to St. Louis. The request was granted and a report reached here just a few days ago, stating that he passed the preliminary test.

The successful passage of the preliminary test places the young man in line for the next draft call from this county. According to reliable information, Brown is asking for an induction transfer, meaning that he will report to the Army direct from St. Louis. It is possible he will leave a few days ahead or a few days behind the contingent moving out of this county about the last of this month.

Whether he passes the physical test at the induction center is any one's guess.