



THE ENTERPRISE



VOLUME XLVI—NUMBER 38

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, May 11, 1943.

ESTABLISHED 1899

Special Panels To Aid County Ration Board

Expect New Plan To Lighten Burden On Main Ration Board

Special Panels Will Consider Applications for Tires, Gas and Fuel Oil

Members of the Martin County Rationing Board, after giving freely of their time for many months, are to get some relief in a new plan now going into effect for handling the rationing program. Heretofore, the one main board has handled virtually all the work, studying applications for tires, gasoline, cars, bicycles, special allotments and so on. The work required at least one day each week, and often the board members made as many as five trips to the office each week. They were also called upon to sit as a board of review in those cases charging violation of the pleasure bans and speed regulations.

Under the new plan, a special board will handle applications for tires, tubes and cars. Another board is handling applications for gasoline. Another panel will continue to handle fuel oil and kerosene allotments, and still another board will continue to serve as a war price panel.

Appointed to the tire panel, Messrs. Joe G. Corey, chairman, of Williamston; Ernest C. Edmondson, of Hassell; Geo. C. Griffin, of Griffins; J. Frank Bailey, of Cross Roads, and Vance L. Roberson, of Robersonville, held their first meeting last evening in the office of the War Price and Ration Board. These men will meet each Monday evening until further notice. A report on their first activities could not be had immediately, but it is understood that they encountered the same old problem that has been plaguing the ration board. It is the same old story where the demand for tires is greater than the quota. All the men on the board are farmers, it will be noted, but they are well posted on transportation needs in all lines of endeavor.

Working as a supplementary unit to the ration board, the gas panel has been on the job for the past several weeks, and a downward trend in gas rations is being reported. Headed by W. O. Griffin, as chairman, Williamston; W. Clayton House, Hamilton; J. F. Crisp, Oak City; Carl Griffin, Jamesville, and T. B. Slade, Hamilton, the gas panel is making every effort to allot enough gas to meet actual needs of the applicants, but the day of needly gallivanting is fast drawing to an end in many cases. This special board is to meet once each week and review the applications for supplemental rations.

The Fuel Oil and Kerosene panel, composed of W. E. Dunn, chairman, of Williamston; J. C. Martin, of Robersonville; J. C. Norris and Albert T. Perry, Williamston, has already been at work for several months, but its decisions will be the case with the other boards be virtually final.

The War Price Board, composed of W. R. Burrell, chairman, and J. C. Manning, both of Williamston, and H. S. Everett, of Robersonville, is expected to report increased activities as the drive to check inflation and stamp out the black markets gains momentum.

Few Violate New State Speed Law

The new 35-mile speed law introduced by the Council of State last Thursday noon is being generally observed by motorists in this section, according to reports coming from State Highway Patrolmen and members of other law enforcement agencies. Several persons were actually charged with exceeding the limit during the first few days the law was in effect, but traffic as a whole has tempered its speed and is moving well within the limit.

Reports from general observers maintain that defense workers from the several bases are defying the new law, but as far as it could be learned none of them has been cited to the courts.

Three cases were booked in the county courts Monday, but only one of them was called. In that case the defendant was dismissed upon the payment of the court costs. It is understood that the defendant will now have to answer to the ration board and show cause why his rations should not be revoked for a period.

While traffic was slowing its pace over the week-end, the volume was materially increased according to reports from the highway patrol. There have been few Saturdays when more traffic was counted in this section than that moving over the streets and surrounding highways last week-end.

Basic Machinery Is Rationed by Board in County Recently

Peanut Planters Are Removed From Ration List By Special Order

That Martin County farmers are doing along with their old equipment or doing without is evidenced in the list of basic farm machines recently rationed by the special board. Reports maintain that repair parts are fairly plentiful, that the farmers are making needed repairs and are doing along very well with their old equipment. In other words, the machinery shortage offers a serious threat, but all indications point to a determined effort on the part of the farmers to successfully overcome the shortage.

Peanut planters are no longer rationed and may be bought wherever they are found without a certificate. Several of the planters were rationed before they were placed on the ration free list, however.

The following basic machines were recently rationed in this county:

- Robert Williams, RFD, Robersonville, walking cultivator.
- S. H. Mobley, RFD 2, Williamston, peanut planter.
- E. H. Harrell, Oak City, Cole planter.
- Jarvis Perkins, EFD 1, Robersonville, planter.
- S. L. Long, Sanford, planter.
- Robert Edward Leggett, Hobgood, transplanter.
- G. W. Barrett, Oak City, combine.
- W. L. Aushorn, Robersonville, gang plow.
- J. D. Wynne, RFD 1, Robersonville, gang plow.
- C. L. Leggett, RFD 3, Williamston, cultivator.
- J. H. Johnson, RFD 3, Williamston, wheel gang plow.
- H. M. Peel, Hamilton, cultivator.
- S. T. Everett, Robersonville, transplanter.
- Raymond Williams, RFD 2, Robersonville, peanut weeder.
- T. B. Slade, Hamilton, peanut weeder.
- A. W. Hardison, RFD 1, Williamston, peanut weeder.
- J. C. Rawls, RFD 2, Williamston, peanut weeder.
- Jasper C. Griffin, RFD 2, Williamston, power mower.

TWENTY SHORT

The turn-over in teacher personnel in the white schools of this county is growing from day to day, a report from the office of the superintendent today stating that twenty vacancies now exist, that this number will possibly undergo another increase shortly.

Jurymen For June Term of Superior Court Are Chosen

With Two Murder Cases Already on Docket, Court to Last Longer Than Usual

Despite war, labor shortages and other urgent needs in a world gone mad, plans were made by the county commissioners at their regular May meeting for holding the June term of the Martin County Superior Court as usual. Justice must be served, however, and busy farmers and business men will be asked to lay down their plows and tools and report to the courthouse on June 14 and contribute their services during two or three days for meager pay. There was a time when the jurymen's pay came in handy, but the few dollars offered now are not very attractive.

Judge Clawson Williams, of Sanford, is scheduled to preside over the term which is scheduled to last only one week but which will hardly last more than two or three days. The court term was created for the trial of both criminal and civil cases, but the general practice in years past has been to limit the work of the court to the trial of criminal cases.

The following men were drawn to serve as petit jurors: Griffins Township: Simon D. Roberson and Marion F. Hodges. Williamston Township: R. L. Hester, F. M. Barnes, W. B. Watts, H. L. Daniel, James David Moore, W. A. Mobley, Willie Long and H. H. Williams.

Robersonville Township: E. C. House, Silas House and Charlie G. Forbes.

Goose Nest Township: L. J. Davenport, E. R. Turner, J. F. Flanagan, L. A. Thomas and R. E. Turner. The grand jury was sworn in last term, and no changes in that body will follow before next September. All of the petit jurors for the court next month come from four townships.

Demonstrations In Food Preservation

Following up the victory garden production program, home economists and agents are conducting a series of demonstrations in food preservation. While the attendance is holding to small numbers in most cases, fairly sizable crowds are reporting in some cases.

Mrs. Henry Griffin, of the Farm Security Administration, held two demonstrations in the homes of Mrs. Thurman Nicholson and Mrs. Perle Holliday last week. Both of the meetings were well attended.

On Thursday afternoon of this week, Mrs. Griffin will conduct a demonstration in the Hassell school. The meeting will be held at two o'clock and the general public is urged to attend. A similar demonstration will be held in the Hamilton school on Thursday, May 20, and the public is urged to be present.

The demonstrations center around canning by the pressure cooking method, canning by the hot water bath method, vegetable brining and the dehydration of fruits and vegetables.

Other demonstrations are being planned in various parts of the county.

PATRIOTISM

Much has been said about the patriotism of miners and many, many others, but in one Martin County town a reliable report states that one man in the armed services is buying more war bonds than are bought by all the people back in the young man's home town. The report also pointed out that the gasoline bill for pleasure driving alone would amount to more in a single day than the combined purchases of war bonds and stamps for an entire month.

Percy D. Ashford Fatally Stabbed by Luke Parsley Here

Murder Was Second Reported In This County Within Two Weeks

Percy David Ashford, young colored man and a trusted employee of the Williamston Package Manufacturing Company, was fatally stabbed by Luke Parsley, colored, on Lower Main Street near the storage tanks of the Puro Company about 10:30 last Friday night. His heart pierced by the blade of a pocketknife, the man died before medical aid could reach him. The boy, prepared for burial by a local undertaker, was removed to Atkinson, Pender County, Sunday afternoon for burial.

Parsley, a comparatively newcomer to this section, took an immediate leave by foot and boarded a late bus a short distance out of town for Washington. Picking up his trail, Officer Chas. R. Moore and Patrolman W. E. Saunders had the man picked up in Washington and they returned him to the jail here in less than three hours after the fatal attack. He will be given a preliminary hearing before Justice J. L. Hassell here later in the week.

Coming here from Wilmington about two years ago, Ashford had made his employers a good worker, and had made many friends among both the white and colored populations.

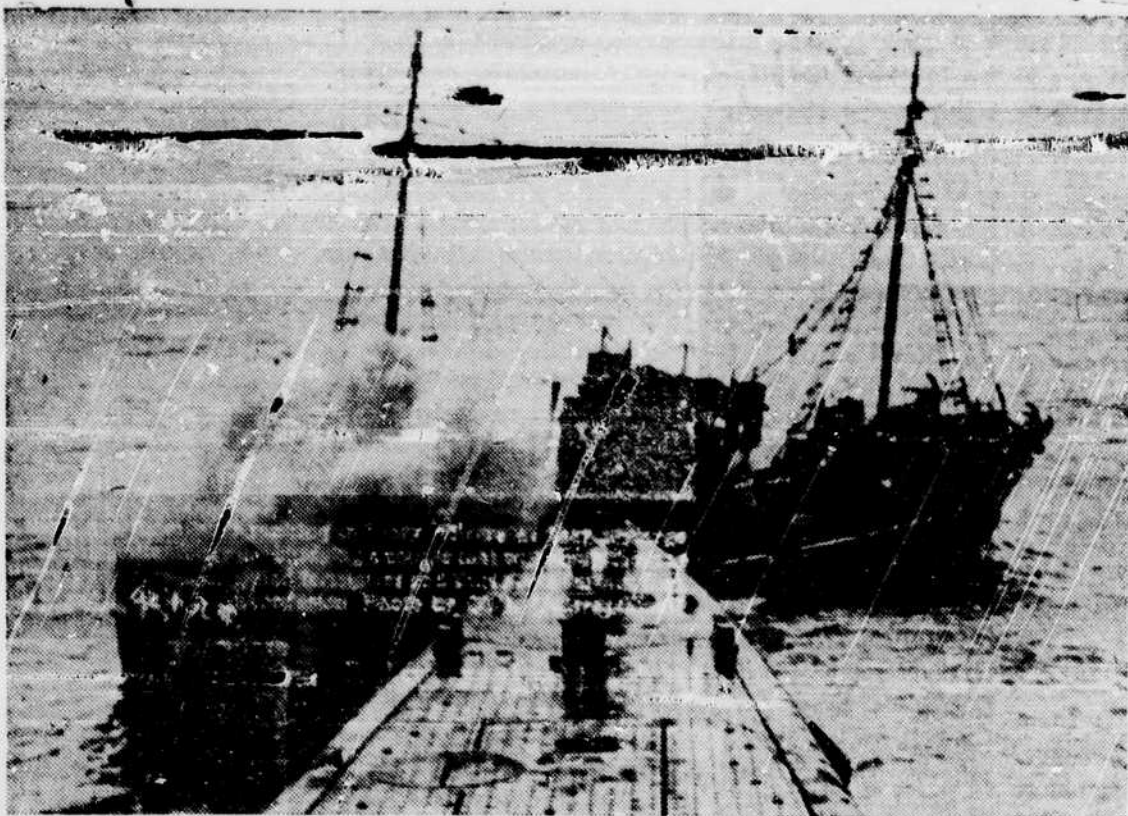
Parsley, the husband of Ashford's sister, told officers that the two had quarreled over liquor. Other reports reaching the police disagreed with his story, and declare that Ashford had pleaded with his brother-in-law, urging him to stop imposing upon and beating his sister. One report stated that Ashford had warned Parsley that relief would be asked of the police, that the attack followed a short time later.

The murder was the second reported in this county within two weeks, Sheppard Sprull, Goose Nest colored farmer, fatally shooting his young wife on the Mizelle farm the latter part of April.

Jamesville Changes Its Town Officials

Jamesville citizens, reporting in small number to the polls last week, effected several changes in their town government for the next two years. Joe H. Holliday is succeeding W. W. Walters who is resigning as mayor. The new board of commissioners include O. G. Carson and John Long, new members, and W. B. Gaylord, who succeeds himself. Retiring board members are, Herbert L. Sexton and O. W. Hamilton.

U. S. SUB SUBDUES A JAP SHIP IN THE PACIFIC



MEMBERS OF AN AMERICAN SUBMARINE CREW give the coup de grace to a Japanese trawler after subduing it with gunfire somewhere near the land of the Rising Sun. The crew are tossing fire bombs, also called "Molotov cocktails" aboard the Nipponese vessel to burn the hull. U. S. Navy photo. (International)

WPA Closes Office Doors In This District Last Saturday

Born out of the depression, the Works Progress Administration after almost ten years of steady and solid growth last Saturday folded its tent, locked its office doors and was for the most part absorbed by industry, war and increased demands for labor on the home front.

Closing its doors last Saturday, the district office was opened here back in September 1936. Well over 100 persons were employed in the offices during the organization's heyday, but for months the forces have been dwindling to keep up with the changing times. Even before the war, the forces were being curtailed, and at the curtain last Saturday there were only four persons in the office, and they had been asked to remain at their posts until all unfinished business could be handled.

The closing was effected without ceremony, but it was a different story back in the thirties when the office was opened here and when a man's labor was rated as low as 40 and 50 cents a day. The organization was burdened with political appointments, and there were the trifling, but measured in unbiased terms it accomplished far more than many of its critics say it did.

Plans and methods were possibly advanced contrary to the ideas of big business, but for the approximately one billion the organization spent each year during the past ten, national income went up several billion. And today right here in this county are schoolhouses, gymnasiums, streets, roads, municipal projects and a record of service in lunch rooms and sewing rooms to offset the expenditures. Possibly it muddled its way through, but the WPA served its purpose.

ABUSED

Said to have been abused, the emergency issuance of kerosene and fuel oil has been ordered suspended by the Office of Price Administration. Rations will have to come through the county War Price and Ration Board or the consumer will have to do without, according to definite instructions received by the board in this county this week. It is understood that thousands of gallons of fuel oil and kerosene were issued under the emergency ration system in this county, that the emergency rations exceeded a reasonable point.

Building And Loan Stockholders Hold Annual Meet Today

Marked Decrease in Number and Amount of Loans Noted as Result of War

Holding their annual meeting in the county courthouse this morning, stockholders of the Martin County Building and Loan Association re-elected all the directors and heard a brief review of the organization's activities for the year ending last December 31.

The meeting, while poorly attended, had the required stock representation and was in session only a short time.

Earnings, according to the secretary's report read before the meeting, for the period amounted to 7.02 percent, the association still offering an attractive investment.

Despite the curtailment of building activities on the home front as a result of the war, the organization handled 31 loans during the period as follows: fourteen for new home construction in the sum of \$19,346.42; seven for the purchase of homes in the amount of \$18,500, and ten for other purchases in the sum of \$7,805.99, making a grand total of \$45,652.41 in loans.

At the present time the association has 6,748 installment shares and 2,028 full-paid shares of stock in force.

In addition to its regular activities, the association has been active in promoting the sale of war bonds and contributing to the war program in every way possible.

The following directors were re-elected: C. D. Carstarphen, C. B. Clark, K. B. Crawford, N. C. Green, J. E. King, W. C. Manning, Frank Margolis, Wheeler Martin, D. C. Matthews and Jesse Whitley. The group is scheduled to meet in the secretary's office on Thursday night of this week and elect officers for the new year and to handle other business for the organization.

Guns Trained On Local Fishing Party At Beach

Taking time out for a swim somewhere along the shores of Nags Head last week-end, members of a fishing party from this section had machine guns trained on them as they started to leave the surf, according to reports heard here yesterday. Names of the parties could not be learned, but one report stated that the Coast Guardsmen were ready for action.

The swimmers do not refer to the incident as another joke, it was declared.

Issues New Warning Against Illegal Use Of B And C Gasoline

Order Comes When Supplies On East Coast Are Lowest Since War Started

Declaring that east coast gasoline supplies "are shorter now than at any time since the war began," Price Administrator Prentiss Brown last week announced a nationwide campaign against pleasure driving on supplemental rations.

This time cars will not be stopped on the highway, Brown said in declaring that it will not be a "snooping" campaign, but—

Drivers will be interviewed by police and OPA investigators on occasion, and in some cases "license numbers will be noted and the drivers will be asked to present an explanation to the district OPA office.

The drive is aimed at non-essential use of B and C gasoline rations. Holders of A books only need not worry, and those who have extra rations are O.K. if they can prove their pleasure driving is burning up only the "gasoline acquired with their A book.

However Brown stressed that "with the limited amount of driving that an A book permits it is impossible for anyone to travel very far or very often to race tracks, or to distant resorts, or for any other non-essential purposes.

Motorists found doing so and holding B or C rations probably are misusing their rations, he added.

He said the police will cooperate with the OPA investigators in turning in license numbers of drivers who attend race tracks, and other amusement spots "out of keeping with their gas allowance."

Wheeler Peaks Died Suddenly On Friday

Funeral services were conducted last Sunday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock from the home of Wheeler Foster Peaks, farmer, who died suddenly last Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Rev. Dennis Warren Davis conducted the last rites and interment was in the Harris Cemetery in Bear Grass Township.

A victim of arthritis, Mr. Peaks had been a patient sufferer for about eight years. Despite his affliction, he was able to be up and about most of the time, supervising his farm operations. During last Friday he complained about a pain in his chest, but his condition was not considered alarming until shortly before 4 o'clock. He was sitting in the swing on the front porch, when he suddenly died. The doctor was called within five minutes.

Sallie Williams Peaks, he was born near Williamston 55 years ago last December 28. He lived in the community all his life and engaged in farming. In 1911 he was married to Miss Carrie Rogers who survives with the following children, Arthur Peaks, of Bear Grass Township; Jo-

(Continued on page six)

ROUND-UP

Maybe it was or maybe it was not as a result of the beer sale ban, but the round up of drunks in this section hit a low point last week-end. The number of arrests dropped from nine during the week-end before to four last week-end. Two of the four were booked for drunkenness, one for murder and one for larceny and receiving. Only one of the four was white, and the ages of the group ranged from 23 to 39 years.

World Is Anxiously Awaiting Plans for Continent Invasion

Allied Success in North Africa Regarded as a Major Turning Point in War

Following the great Allied successes in North Africa, the world is now anxiously awaiting developments in the further prosecution of the war. Heartened by the sweeping victories in Tunisia, the Allied nations see Hitler's fate hanging in the balance, but how the Allied command will move to seal that fate is a great military secret. However, the observers are doing some wild guessing, and if the plans of procedure follow the guesses, Adolf Hitler will be snowed under from all sides. The observers have powerful armies marching down on Germany from North Africa, from England through France, from Norway, from Greece through the Balkans and from Russia. One guess is that the Allies while finishing mopping-up operations in North Africa will clear the islands of Sicily and Sardinia, plus one or two smaller ones in the area. The invasion of Italy will offer little more than the elimination of the Italian fleet, leaving Hitler intact behind the Alps.

In the eyes of some observers, France is still the logical point for launching an invasion. Short supply routes can support a drive there. The Middle East, while out of the main picture just now, may be back in the limelight over night with the possibility that the attack will be launched at Hitler's back door. During the meantime, Hitler is suffering with a severe case of the invasion jitters. While the Germans have worked feverishly to fortify the long borders to the European fortress, they are now said to be withdrawing from the coasts and locating their strength at strategic points for quick dispatch to invasion centers. Most of the Germans' defense power—other than that concentrated at vulnerable points—is well back from the coast, held ready to be thrown at whatever point is threatened. If Hitler has followed the guesses of the observers, there is little wonder he has the jitters.

Very little has been heard from official sources about invasion plans, but General Henri Giraud is quoted as saying that an invasion of Europe is "not far off". Unconfirmed reports today stated that General G. C. Marshall will likely be placed at the head of the Allied supreme command. During the meantime, Gen. Devers has reached England to take over command of the American forces. He succeeds General Frank Andrews who lost his life in a plane crash in Iceland the early part of last week.

It is generally believed that no breathing spell will be allowed the continent defenders, that softening-up activities have already started or will be launched immediately.

The suddenness marking the climax reached in the Tunisian fight dazed the world, the Allies soon recovering from the shock to taste sweet revenge. The Germans, however, are still dazed, their worries and troubles aggravated many fold. In the conquered countries, the downcast and enslaved people are showing new signs of hope.

The fall of Bizerte and Tunis came last Friday afternoon, a review of the activities showing that the Americans in their drive into Bizerte were from six to eight miles ahead of the battle progress reports. The gains were made against stubborn resistance and the fall of the two ports came only after the enemy had about exhausted his ammunition.

(Continued on page six)

Transplanting Of Tobacco Resumed

Delayed a week or ten days by blue mold and strong winds, tobacco transplanting is being resumed in this county. The task is yet far from its climax, and it is now estimated that 1943 tobacco planting latest since 1932 when transplanting was continued well into June in this county.

The task is being resumed despite the unusually dry weather, the farmers trusting that transplanting now will catch a rain in a "day or two." Rain fell in some parts of the county over the week-end and a few outlying areas reported light rains Monday afternoon, but the county as a whole is unusually dry.

In some sections about one-half of the crop has already been transplanted, while in others hardly more than from 10 to 15 per cent of the crop has been transferred from the bed to the field. In those cases where early plantings were effected, extensive resettlings are now underway.

Weather conditions are almost ideal for the peanut crop, but cotton and corn have not done so well. Cold weather resulted in poor stands a short time ago, and many farmers plowed their fields and replanted the crops in their entirety in a number of cases.