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Considerable Loss In Local Laundry Fire Last Evening

Operation Week or Ten Days, One Report Says

Believed to have started near an exhaust fan, fire did considerable damage to Lilley's Laundry on West Warren Street here last evening at 7 o'clock. No official estimate on the loss could be had immediately, but according to a preliminary survey made early today by Fire Chief G. P. Hall, the damage will approximate \$4,000. It is estimated that the damage of clothes will amount to \$2,000 and that repairs and machine replacements will cost about \$1,000. Damage to the building will run between \$700 and \$1,000.

Operating the plant at a loss, Mr. J. Eason Lilley, the owner, in an effort to curtail expenses, cancelled much or all of the insurance on the machinery and clothing only about ten days ago. Insurance on the building was still in force, it is understood, but the loss there was minor compared with the damage resulting to clothes and machines.

Starting in the wall on the west side of the building, the fire charred only a small area there and burned into the attic, but the main structural work was not materially damaged. Rollers on the pressing machines were burned, and it is believed that some of the machinery was warped. The plant had suspended operations about an hour earlier for the day.

None of the records was lost and the management explained this morning that a complete inventory was possible, that very few clothes were burned completely and that it was possible to make fairly accurate adjustments. Very little can be done until insurance representatives make a survey of the damage, but every effort will be made to repair the damage and resume operations as soon as possible, according to a statement issued this morning by the management.

Patrons are asked to be patient, the management assuring them that every effort will be made to adjust every loss as quickly and as fairly as possible, but it is fairly certain that no clothes can be handled by the laundry before some time next week, if that early.

When the alarm was sounded at seven o'clock, smoke was leaking through sides and top of the building in volume. Work of the volunteers was unusually effective, and while the loss was considerable, it could easily have been much greater.

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Twenty-Three Men From This County Accepted by Army

Number Accepted by Navy Out of Recent Call Could Not Be Learned

Out of approximately sixty Martin County men reporting to an Army induction center last Friday, twenty-three were accepted outright by the Army. Two or three were detained and their status could not be learned here today. Quite a few of the men were accepted by the Navy, but no official "audit" has been released and the number and their names could not be learned here immediately.

The percentage of men accepted out of the last group was the largest in recent months, the rejections running as high as 75 per cent in some cases. It is believed that possibly fifty or sixty per cent of the last contingent to report to the induction center was accepted either by the Army or Navy. None was accepted by the Coast Guard as far as it could be learned. Most of the group, or rather about 36 out of the approximately 60 men, were mere leads, or boys in their teens just out of high school in many cases, and most of them "stuck." Several of the older fellows stuck, too, one report stating that the induction officers gobbled up Professor C. B. Martin and Attorney Paul D. Roberson.

The names of the men accepted by the Army are, as follows: Paul D. Roberson, Charles W. Gurkin, Jr., William B. Dickerson, Horace A. Ray, Robert Cullen Whitely, Bernard E. Spencer, Robert L. Ethebridge, Maurice D. Brinson, Jesse W. Wood, Jr., William V. Ward, Arthur Smith, Jr., David L. Newbern, Charles B. Martin, Arthur Wallace Lilley, William H. Peel, Thomas R. Griffin, Arthur D. Johnson, Thomas L. Speller, Roy S. Hardison, Earl T. Harrell, Charles W. Coltrane, William C. Hardison, William E. Rogers.

The county's June call is to be answered the early part of next week, according to induction notices received by some registrants this week. It could not be learned how many men the draft board will be able to send, but the number is believed to be far below the quota.

The young men accepted last Friday are to report for active service on Friday of this week in most cases.

War Tough On Prosecuting Attorneys In County's Court

The war is making it tough for that he would be back...

To keep the wheels of justice turning, the tribunal reporting yesterday that it was short a solicitor again. Attorney Paul D. Roberson, who has been ably handling the job during most of the time since Prosecutor Don E. Johnson entered the service, is to report for active duty in the Army on Friday of this week.

It was known some time ago that Attorney Roberson was subject to call, but no action was taken pending the outcome of the young man's final physical examination at the induction center. He was accepted last Friday. Yesterday, the attorney performed the regular duties of the office, bid members of the bar goodbye and expressed the keen hope

The appointment of an acting solicitor will likely be the first business on the calendar for the county commissioners when they meet next Monday morning in regular session shortly after nine o'clock to handle the appointment before the court convenes. Just what action the board will take is not known, but it is generally believed that the position will be offered to Attorney Wheeler Martin. Approached yesterday afternoon for a statement, Attorney Martin said he had not thought about the appointment, that he enjoyed the work when he was pinch-hitting for Solicitor Don E. Johnson and that he would consider the appointment if it was offered him.

Youth Fatally Hurt In Auto-Bicycle Accident

Ask Volunteers To Fill In Forms For No. 3 Ration Book

Finding that many people in the county are improperly filling in their applications for Ration Book No. 3, the Martin County War Price and Rationing Board this week is appealing to a number of citizens in the several communities to assist the applicants in preparing the forms. The task is quite simple, but so many of the cards are being improperly prepared, that it was deemed necessary to name a group of persons to help handle the task. However, it is perfectly all right for the individual to prepare the application or get someone who knows how to do it for him.

The following persons are being called upon to help handle the work: J. Rossell Rogers, Bear Grass; Dick Smith, Woodard Hardware Co., Williamston; Mrs. Katherine Harrell, Hamilton; J. W. Eubanks, Hassell; H. M. Ainsley, Oak City; David Grimes, Robersonville, and Mrs. Clyde Brown, Jamesville.

Heavy Explosion Is Felt Over Big Area Early This Morning

Numbers of People Frightened Out of Their Homes In This County

Two heavy explosions, coming close together, rattled windows and jarred homes over a large area in this section of the State at 4:30 o'clock this morning, waking hundreds of people from their sleep and causing concern among many.

Early this afternoon the origin of the blasts had not been traced, leaving everyone to guess what happened. At first it was thought the explosion was more or less local, but later in the day reports indicated that the jar was fairly general throughout this section of the State. Citizens in and around Jamesville called in to inquire about the explosion. A short time later it was learned that the explosion was heard and felt as far away as Scotland Neck, Tarboro, Greenville and other centers still farther removed. Some windows in and around Scotland Neck were jarred out, one report stated, but it could not be verified immediately.

In this county, many people got up and started the day earlier than usual as a result of the explosion. Farmer Chester Taylor out in Bear Grass hopped up and ran out expecting to see a tornado sweeping down in his direction. A frightened colored tenant ran to Mr. Taylor's home, anxious over the explosion and what might follow.

While the source of the noise could not be learned, many believe it was a sizable blast, that possibly something blew up on or near the

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County Represented At East Carolina Finals

Martin County is well represented in the list of young men and women graduating from the East Carolina Teachers College, Greenville, this year.

Five county young men and women, Misses Blanche Crisp, Elizabeth Haislip, Virgil Ward and Reid White and Mr. Evan Griffin received their bachelor of arts degree there yesterday. Degrees were presented to 174 young men and women.

Quite a few people from the county were present for the commencement exercises.

Fatal Accident Is Fifth Reported in The County In 1943

Funeral Services Held Monday Afternoon for Homer Lee Raynor, Eleven

Homer Lee Raynor, eleven years old, died in a local doctor's office early last Saturday evening, a few minutes after he had run his bicycle head on into a car on N. C. Highway 125 in Poplar Point Township. His neck broken, the youth died without regaining consciousness. The accident was the fifth fatal one reported in the county so far this year, the highway death toll exceeding the county's war casualties in the corresponding period.

Returning from an errand to a filling station, the child was riding his wheel behind a cart. Falling to hear or unmindful of a warning from "Buf" Gurganus, who was riding in the cart, the boy turned out to pass and went into the path of a car driven by Merlin Hollis toward Hamilton. Hollis, about 90 or 100 feet away when he saw the boy turn from behind the cart, started applying brakes and turned to the side of the road, the car and bicycle crashing on the edge of the hard surface. Knocked from his wheel the boy is believed to have suffered the broken neck when he fell to the pavement. The car traveled only nine or ten feet across a ditch after striking the boy.

Hollis, a tenant on the Everett farm near Palmyra, stands charged with involuntary manslaughter and will be given a hearing before Justice Hassell in Williamston on June 9th. Damage, estimated at about \$25, was done to his old 1933 model car. The bike was badly bent.

The accident was the third involving a car and bicycle on the highways of the county during the week. Funeral services for the youth were conducted at the Vernon Methodist Church on the old Williamston-Everetts road Monday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock by Rev. Thomas L. House, the family's pastor. Interment was in the family cemetery near the church.

Besides his parents, Mr. Sylvester (Pete) Raynor and Mrs. Dailie Williams Raynor, he is survived by the following brothers and sisters, Julia, Jerry, Frances and Margaret.

His brother, Jerry, is in the service and was called home by the tragedy. The young service man, home on a visit a few weeks ago, discovered the accident.

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Boy Painfully Hurt When Struck By Car

Gurney Howard, young delivery boy for a local grocery, was painfully but not seriously hurt when he was struck and knocked off his bicycle in front of the Sinclair Service Station, corner Main and Smithwick Streets here last Saturday night about 8:45 o'clock. Slightly cut on the nose, the boy was skinned in several places on his face and one leg, but no bones were broken. After receiving treatment in a doctor's office he was able to continue to his home.

Riding down the main street, the boy crashed into the side of a car driven by E. J. Eatman. The car, traveling down the main street, started to make a left turn into the filling station, suddenly blocking the path of the boy on the bike.

No charges have been brought in the case it was reported by the police department.

Earlier in the week, a young colored grocery delivery boy was thrown from his wheel when a car backed suddenly out of its parking place on the main street. The boy, slightly bruised and his wheel badly damaged, was "balled out" for running into the back of the car.

TOWN - FARM IN WARTIME

(A weekly news digest from...)

RATION REMINDER

Blue Stamps
(For canned, frozen and certain dehydrated foods):
Blue stamps G, H, J remain good through June 7.
Blue stamps K, L, M are good until July 7.

Coffee
Stamp No. 24 in War Ration Book One, good for one pound of coffee, became valid May 31 and is good through June.

Gasoline
"A" book coupons No. 5 good for three gallons each and must last till July 21.

Red Stamps
(For meat products, canned fish, most edible oils and cheese):
Red Stamps "J" and "K" good through June.

Shoes
No. 17 stamp in War Ration Book One good for one pair until June 15th.

Sugar
Stamp No. 13, good for 5 pounds, became valid June 1 and is good through August 15.

Stamps Nos. 15 and 16 in War Ration Book One now are valid for 5 pounds of sugar each, for use in home canning. They are good through October 31. Housewives may apply at local boards for supplementary sugar rations for home canning.

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Arrested On Meat Stealing Charge

Dennis Smallwood, colored man, was arrested here Sunday night for the alleged theft of five hams from Farmer Williford Hardison over in Williams Township two nights before. The hams, weighing about 52 pounds, were sold to Brown's Washington Road grocery, the owner identifying and recovering it there Saturday. Two shoulders and a smoked piece of side meat, alleged to have been stolen along with the hams, were not recovered.

Investigating the theft and sale of the meat, officers declared that as far as they could learn no ration stamps were used in the transaction, that possibly Smallwood had been supplying retailers with meat and chickens on previous occasions.

Smallwood, well hidden under blankets and pillows, was found in a local colored home by officers Sunday night after his brother had been to the grocerman and offered to refund the money paid for the meat.

The OPA stepped into the case yesterday and it is understood that possible irregularities in the transaction will be checked. Smallwood, questioned yesterday, stated that he had said something to Brown about ration stamps, but declared that Brown told him they were not necessary, just to say nothing about the deal. No indictment has been made as far as it could be learned here early today.

Oak City Plans For School Lunch Room

Even though the WPA has been liquidated and temporarily out of business, the patrons of the Oak City school in a food canning demonstration last Friday decided to promote a lunch room in that school next fall.

Miss Hattie Everett was elected chairman of the lunch room committee and she will be assisted by Messrs. R. A. Haislip, Hugh Bennett, Jim Rawls, H. A. Early, Alice Tyson and Helen Smith.

This committee, assisted by the public spirited women and men of the community, will do its own canning and sponsor the lunch room, although no help will be realized through the WPA.

Mr. Ainsley was indirectly the instigator of the lunch room in the Oak City school for he realized the need for an organization.

DELAYED FURLOUGH

One wonders what the Governor of North Carolina would have said to the Governor of South Carolina if the time between drinks had been as long as the time spent in the service by Corporal Robert Biggs without a visit home.

In the service three years and nine months, the young man made his first visit home last week-end. He was at Pearl Harbor when the attack was made there, and while he has traveled in many distant places, all's been quiet on the war front for him except during the December 7, 1941, sneak attack. He will return to his station following a fifteen-day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Biggs, in Everetts.

Dates And Places Are Set For Listing Land Measurements

Charged with the task of measuring...

Martin County farmers are being asked to complete the work and report their measurements to their respective community committees on certain days at specified places. The committees will sit in the following places on the specified days to receive the information, and farmers are urged to cooperate:
June 11 at Moble's Store in Cross Roads, and June 12, Hardy's Store in Everetts.
June 11 and 12: Bear Grass School, Manning's Store in Griffins, Perkins Garage in Hamilton, Edmondson's Store in Hassell, Edwards' Filling Station in Poplar Point, Gold Point School, County House in Williams, and Williamston agricultural building.

Aerial War Against The Axis Is Now In Its Fourteenth Day

Chinese, Aided by American Air Forces, Check Jap Drive on Chungking

While invasion talk continues to gain momentum but with no plans revealed or action taken outwardly, the Allies are still going ahead with their aerial warfare against the Axis on a big scale. Aside from the devastating blows struck at industrial Germany during recent nights, the Americans are still softening up the vulnerable spot to the south with heavy blows being directed against Sardinia and Sicily and the Italian mainland. The aerial warfare is now in its fourteenth straight day without material let-up.

Allied planes were seen going over the English Channel this morning, but their destinations and targets were not disclosed.
British and Canadian planes early Sunday dropped more than 1,500 tons of bombs on Wuppertal, home of the I. G. Farbinindustrie Chemical Works. Resulting fires "merged" into one conflagration covering most of the city," it was reported.

One by one, U. S. and British airmen are flattening out gigantic industrial properties which represent not only war power and tremendous capital investments but which also bear names which have been top-liners in international finance and in intrigue aimed at the cartelization of European and world commerce.

Some of the more important of such plants which have received doses of airborne TNT—many of them several times—include:
The Krupp armament works at Essen.
The Heinkel airplane factory at Rostock.

The Daimler-Benz automobile and tank plant, the Bosch electrical company, and the Hirth aero engine plant at Stuttgart.
The Skoda arms works at Pilsen, Czechoslovakia.

The Telefunken factory, makers of radio instruments; the Blaupunkt Werk, manufacturers of radio sets; and the Auto-union, A. G., workshops, Berlin.
The Zeiss Optical company at Jena.
The Focke-Wulf airplane factory, Bremen.

The Potez fighter aircraft works at Mayadit, France.
The Renault auto works, turning out motorized military equipment for Germany; and the Gnome-Rhone airplane engine works in the Paris area.

The Schneider-Creusot steel plant at Le Creusot.
The St. Joseph Locomotive works

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Former Local Man Ordained Minister

At a special service in the local Baptist church last Sunday evening, Cyrus W. Bazemore, former local citizen, was ordained for the ministry. The service was the first of its kind held in the church since 1871, Dr. W. R. Burrell, pastor, said.
Following an oral examination lasting the greater part of three hours Sunday afternoon, Rev. Hartwell Campbell, pastor of the Emanuel Baptist Church, Greenville, was chosen to preach the ordination sermon. Rev. A. R. Stewart, Bertie County Baptist minister, delivered the charge. Rev. W. B. Harrington, county Baptist minister, and eleven of the church deacons also participated in the service which was largely attended by the church membership, friends and special visitors.

Following the service, the newly ordained minister, accompanied by Mrs. Bazemore and their two children, Lena and Cyrus, Jr., and Mrs. Bazemore's mother, Mrs. Mary, left for Scotland Neck for a short stay before entering upon his new duties as pastor of the Saluda and Urbana churches in Virginia. They will make their home in Saluda.

Cpl. Johnnie B. Harrell Home After A Long Tour

Corporal Johnnie B. Harrell, who has toured the Panama Canal zone for over two years, is here visiting his mother and stepfather, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Lee, for two weeks. He was entertained Sunday at Scotland Neck at a picnic dinner by a number of relatives and friends. He says the Red Cross is doing a wonderful work for the servicemen, and also were so nice to his crew returning to the States.

Board Of Inquiry Handles Few Minor Cases Last Night

Service Men Home On Furloughs Alleged To Be the Worst Ration Violators

Asked for the definition of the word "furlough," a young school boy, having seen in the dictionary a picture of a soldier riding a donkey with the inscription, "Soldier riding home on a furlough," told his teacher that a furlough was a donkey. The donkey has been lost in the wake of progress, and the dictionary could well carry a picture of the soldier in a car with the inscription, "Soldier riding out a furlough on unrationed gas." At a meeting of the Martin County Rationing Board's tire and gas panels sitting as a board of inquiry, it was claimed by several defendants that their sons or brothers home from the service had helped run up excess mileage on their cars, and that they did not know where the extra gas came from. According to more than one defendant's testimony offered before the board in favor of his son or brother, man is either playing the old Army game or else he is taking the rap for someone else. More than half the cases charging irregularities in mileage and rations have been laid to service men home on furlough. One of these days, the old Army game isn't going to work, and somebody is subject to find himself on his feet walking out the hundreds of miles charged against the service man.

Eli Wilson, following a round in the county court, had all his rations suspended for sixty days when he admitted that he was running around fifty miles an hour. Quite honest with his answers, Wilson explained that he was trying to make it to town in time to get a pint at the ABC store, that he did not realize how fast he was driving. Wilson added that he forgot his ABC ration book, did not get his liquor but landed in the middle of trouble. Possessing only an A book and allowed six gallons of extra gas for an emergency, Wilson had driven the car 570 miles in excess of the allotment. "My boy was home from the Army for a few days and he used the car. I don't know where he got the gas, but that's where the difference comes in," Wilson explained.

Living seven miles from town, William Rhodes Jones, it was found by the board had driven about 1,680 miles in excess of his allotment. He had a brother home on a furlough

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Marriage Licenses Continue To Hold Up Well in County

Marked Decrease in Number Licenses Issued to White Couples Last Month

Young Man Ends His Life At Home Near Oak City Yesterday

Francis Tyson, 17, Blows Top of Head Away with Shot Gun

Depressed over ill health resulting from an accident some few years ago, Francis Tyson, 17 years old, ended his life at the Tyson home near Oak City yesterday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by blowing the top of his head off with a shot gun. Seating himself on the front porch and facing the door, the young man put the barrel of the gun to his eye and pushed the trigger with his toe. One eye was shot out and part of the skull was blown across the road, a distance of about sixty feet or more.

Some years ago Tyson was accidentally struck with a baseball bat while playing at school. He was left partially paralyzed and was subject to attacks. His condition became aggravated, and it is understood that he had threatened to end his life on previous occasions. He had been in bed most of the time during the past two weeks, and was scantily attired when he got up yesterday afternoon, took the gun and went outside. A small sister, Sybil, and aged colored woman were at home but Mrs. Tyson was visiting a daughter in Roseboro at the time. The sister saw him with the gun and told the washerwoman, but both of them were afraid to try to take the gun away from him. He shot the gun, apparently into the air, and five minutes later he shot it again, the last load killing him instantly.

Investigating the death, Coroner S. R. Biggs found that no informal inquest was necessary. He was the son of the late John R. Tyson and Mrs. Alice Tyson and had lived in the Oak City section most of his life. Besides his mother he is survived by four brothers, A. B. and R. A. Tyson, of the home; Phillip R. Tyson, of the U. S. Marines, and John R. Tyson, Jr., of the U. S. Navy, and seven sisters, Mrs. Lurly Tyson Hand, of Brooklyn; Mrs. Vivian Tyson Whitely, of Roseboro; Miss Ward Tyson, of New York; Miss Hazel Tyson, lieutenant nurse in the Army; Mrs. Olive Hefferman, of Brooklyn, and Misses Gretchen and Sybil Tyson, of the home.

Funeral services will be conducted at the home Wednesday afternoon by Rev. J. M. Perry. Interment will follow in the family plot in the Greenville cemetery.

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