

Draft Classification For Farmers About Complete In County

Approximately Nine Per Cent Is Placed In Non-Essential List

Hundred or More Who Have Not Filed Farm Plans Are Subject to Call

The United States Congress apparently did an effective job when its members passed legislation to relieve the farm labor shortage, according to a review of the farmer-registrant classifications in this county. It is true that many farmers were drafted into the military service and that an even larger number turned to industry before the legislation was adopted, but the serious farm situation aggravated by the draft has been definitely reduced by 90 per cent or more in this county. According to late information coming from the draft board, out of 464 farm registrants recently classified only 43 were ruled non-essential. And it is quite likely that some of the forty-three are married and have children, or that they are over 38 years of age. It is believed now that few or no fathers or men over 38 will be called any time soon, meaning that possibly no large percentage of the 43 "non-essentials" will be called from their part-time or low-unit farming. It is well understood that non-farm registrants, including married men without children, have been thinned out considerably.

It was again pointed out by the draft board this week that possibly 100 or more farm registrants are about to be caught in the draft. Most of them are tenant farmers whose landlords did not file a farm plan at the agricultural building, and at the present time they have no claim to "C" classification. The last of the farm registrant files, an estimated 200, have been turned over to the County War Board by the draft authorities for tentative classification. All those farm registrants whose cases were not passed before the County War Board will be sub-

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Number Of Water Systems Rationed

Following the introduction of electricity into many rural communities of the county, home water systems are making their appearance fairly rapidly. During the past two or three weeks quite a few of the systems have been rationed by the County Farm Machinery Board. Coming in greater numbers than at any other time in possibly thirty years, the tobacco worm created a demand for poison sprayers. The board allotted sprayers, water systems, and a few other types of implements to the following in recent weeks:

- D. Andrew Griffin, RFD 1, Williamston, water system.
- Jordan G. Peel, RFD 1, Williamston, water system.
- Herbert Bunting, Robersonville, tobacco sprayer.
- C. L. Green, RFD 1, Robersonville, tobacco sprayer.
- Zack Cowen, RFD 2, Williamston, tobacco sprayer.
- Mrs. Alice V. Coltrain, RFD 1, Williamston, peanut weeder.
- Charlie Roberson, Williamston, peanut weeder.
- N. C. Green, Williamston, two-in-one cultivator.
- S. E. Parker, Robersonville, tobacco sprayer.
- C. E. Smith, Robersonville, tobacco sprayer.
- J. R. Rogers, RFD 2, Williamston, disc harrow.
- Clayton Revels, RFD 2, Williamston, bush and bog harrow.
- Wynn and Coburn, RFD 1, Robersonville, tobacco sprayer.
- J. H. Coburn, RFD 2, Robersonville, tobacco sprayer.
- S. R. Coburn, RFD 1, Jamesville, electric water pump.
- N. T. Tice, RFD 1, Williamston, water system.
- C. W. Gurkin, RFD 1, Williamston, water system.
- Leslie J. Griffin, RFD 1, Williamston, water system.
- T. B. Slade, Hamilton, hammer mill.
- Mrs. Minnie Wynne, Everetts, tobacco sprayer.

Local Young Man Earns Promotion In Air Corps

Completing his basic training and pre-flight work at Maxwell Field, Ala., James Willis Ward, young son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Ward, of Williamston, was recently promoted to the rank of sergeant in the Army Air Corps. He has been transferred to Jackson, Tenn., where he is now flying.

PILOT

An unofficial report received here yesterday from reliable sources indicates that Capt. Daniel, of Williams Township, was in the thick of the air fight when Allied armies invaded Sicily late last Friday night. No details of his participation in the scrap are to be had, but it was learned that he had been recently promoted to the rank of first lieutenant and been made pilot of a flying fortress in the North African area. It has also been learned that several Martin County boys were in the shuttle service supporting the supply of munitions and equipment for the thrust at Sicily.

Teacher Shortage Is Still Big Problem In The County Schools

Seventeen Positions Are Yet To Be Filled In Five Of The Schools

The shortage of teachers continues to plague school committees and county education authorities, late reports from the office of the superintendent stating that the situation has been aggravated by late resignations. And others are pending, just as if the officials had not had enough to worry them ever since the 1942-43 term ended and when the resignations literally poured in.

A review of the teacher shortage shows seventeen positions unfilled at the present time, four in Oak City, three in Farm Life, four each in Bear Grass and Williamston and two in Jamesville, including a principal at the latter place. More resignations are being talked, but school officials declare that the schools will open on time, that the situation really isn't as serious as all that. No official count could be had, but possibly resignations have set a new count record this year. Most of the places made vacant by resignations or otherwise were filled up until a short time ago when changes surged forward and teachers here and there resigned.

As far as it could be learned late yesterday, faculties in the other white schools are either complete or about complete. Even in several of the schools listing openings, appointments are pending and contracts are expected shortly. In the local school, Miss Evelyn Baker, of Washington, has been named to succeed Mrs. Annie Mae Forrest as commercial teacher. Contracts are pending in two of the other cases.

Among the recent resignations is the one offered by Miss Clarine Duke, popular teacher of the first grade for the past two terms. Miss Duke will enter the Virginia school system this fall. Mrs. Rebecca Crockett, first grade teacher for four years, has been asked to be excused, but the position has not been officially declared vacant.

The irony of the whole teacher shortage business is that none ex-

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Officers Wreck Two Stills In This County

Raiding in the Bear Grass section last Wednesday morning, Officers J. H. Roebuck and Roy Peel assisted by ABC Officer Roy O'Neal, of Beaufort County, wrecked two liquor stills and poured out about one hundred gallons of molasses beer. Both plants had crude equipment, the operators having rigged up two gasoline drums for kettles.

One of the plants had been virtually abandoned, and there was no beer and very little equipment there. After remaining idle for several months, or virtually idle, the illicit liquor business is apparently trying a come-back, but the sledding is a bit tough in the face of officers and rationing.

NOT SO BAD

Heavy rains falling in this section recently, and especially the one last Tuesday afternoon, damaged crops, but numerous reports state that the damage is not as great as many expected when rains continued to fall in nearly every one of the first thirteen days of July.

Tobacco in some limited areas has "flopped," but for the most part, the crop is holding up well and the outlook, barring unfavorable weather, is promising.

Roosevelt-Churchill Issue Ultimatum To The Italian People

Sicilian Invasion Goes For- ward and Progress Is Re- ported on Other Fronts

In a direct ultimatum issued early today by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill, the Italian people were urged to make a choice between their country and the Mussolini-Hitler combine. "You can desert Mussolini and Hitler and take a stand for your country," the ultimatum said in substance. They'll do that or accept the consequences, they were warned. Thousands of today. No time limit was set, and no peace offer was made.

Just how much weight the ultimatum will carry is yet to be determined, but reports from Sicily state that many Italians there are welcoming the Allied soldiers, that instead of firing machine guns at them, the Italians are moving forward to kiss the invaders' hands and feet, and rejoicing over their deliverance.

The ultimatum is recognized by some to mean that the Allies are about ready to follow through with their drive against Italy, that only the overthrow of Mussolini will prevent wide-spread destruction.

On the fighting fronts, the Allies are doing a great job. Favorable reports are coming from all sides, from the Pacific and Eastern fronts as well as from Sicily.

The Sicilian invasion to date has netted the Allies about 115 towns. Approximately 20,000 prisoners have been taken by the Allies, and the push, despite stiffening resistance, is going forward. The Allies are losing some men, but the casualties are not as large as were to be expected.

Smashing through about nine miles of the southern Sicilian defenses and taking their seventh air base, the Americans gave the Allies an added advantage in the air, helped relieve the Eighth Army repulse a German counterattack in the Augusta sector and encouraged General Montgomery's men in the renewal of their drive northward toward Catania with Messina as their ultimate goal.

Fresh waves of Allied paratroopers were thrown into the fighting at a number of points, including the Augusta sector, front reports said, and helped the Allied main forces inflict heavy losses as the enemy appeared on the verge of starting a major counterdrive.

A report coming from a British cruiser stated that the British had captured Lentini and Carlentini, 15 and 16 miles south of Catania, where a full division of Axis troops were cut off by paratroopers and commandos who landed at the enemy rear.

When battleships moved into the fight at Catania it became too hot for the Germans and they moved back with their big railway guns.

The capture of the Biscari airport, representing an eight-mile American advance from Comiso, gave the Allies control of all air bases within their orbit of conquest across the southeastern part of Sicily and light attack planes already are operating from several of them. The others are Comiso, Pachino, Licata, Gela-Farello, Gela-Ponte Olivo, and the Syracuse seaplane base.

Late reports state that a big battle is raging on the plains some few miles outside Catania where the British Eighth Army has locked horns with an Italian field division and crack German troops. Big tanks were thrown into the battle by the Germans, including the 60-ton boys, but the British were taking all the enemy could offer and pushing on. The new American 7th Army under General Patton has advanced another seven miles, extending Allied position as much as forty miles in.

British bombers for the second straight day went over the Channel today to bomb strategic targets in France.

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Draft May Not Take Fathers After All

According to a report coming out of Washington, fathers of children conceived prior to Pearl Harbor and all men in the 38-to-45 years bracket may be spared from military service under plans now under consideration.

Selective Service authorities, however, would retain authority to induct any man who balked at transferring from nonessential to essential employment.

No decision has been reached yet on the plan to reduce the induction quota to around 100,000 a month, although a substantial reduction is being considered.

Factors influencing the discussion are the increase in potential French and other manpower in North Africa and the increasing need for supplying United Nations with munitions and other goods manufactured in the U. S. A.

Members of Congress went home convinced that the need for drafting fathers would not arise before their return in September.

TERRAIN WHERE ALLIED TROOPS BATTLE AXIS



THIS SICILIAN VILLAGE, Santa Ella, located east of Palermo, is typical of many of the areas in which Allied troops are now fighting Axis defenders on the Italian island. Mountains run right down to the sea and landings had to be made through reef-infested, heavily-mined waters and beaches. (International)

To Vote On Quotas For Flue Cured Tobacco On July 24th

Martin County farmers along with others throughout the tobacco belts will vote on flue-cured tobacco marketing quotas for the 1944 crop, or for the three-year period 1944-46, in a referendum to be held on Saturday, July 24, in accordance with War Food Administration regulations, it was announced this week.

National marketing quotas and state and farm acreage allotments will be the same as in 1943, with similar provisions for adjustments as have prevailed in the past, it was explained. Before the quotas can become effective they must be approved by a two-thirds majority of all eligible farmers voting.

At a meeting held in Raleigh on Wednesday of this week, representatives of all the agricultural agencies in the state, warehousemen, bankers, merchants and other groups allied with agriculture expressed the opinion that the present marketing quotas should be con-

tinued by all means in the interest of the farmer and all business connected with agriculture in North Carolina.

Dean I. O. Schaub of State College said: "It would be a great calamity for the farmers of North Carolina and the state as a whole if quotas were discontinued at this time, and growers were allowed to plant an unlimited acreage of tobacco. Prices would probably drop to a very low figure and it would be years before the state could recover from the shock. Also, we must maintain our acreage of food and feed crops in winning the war." Commissioner W. Kerr Scott and Governor J. M. Broughton heartily concurred in this statement.

Since crop quotas have been in effect, crop production has greatly increased: tobacco, 9 percent; peanuts 32; wheat, 51; oats, 59; corn, 23; and hay, 66 percent. Larger yields and greater profits have come from less acres.

TOWN - FARM IN WARTIME

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

Rations for Sick

Although the need to conserve rationed foods is great, no hospital patient's health need suffer, the OPA announced. Local rationing boards have been given authority to provide supplementary allotments to meet the dietary requirements of patients in hospitals—whether or not such patients are on special diets.

Mileage for Air Raid Wardens
Air raid wardens, while not eligible for "C" ration books, may continue to get "B" books, according to OPA. Volunteers regularly performing work contributing to the war effort or public welfare who need supplemental mileage should have applications certified by some authorized representative of the agency for which the work is being performed.

Fuel for Incubators
Fuel oil for incubators, brooders and other equipment used in raising poultry, livestock, or other agricultural products can no longer be obtained without the approval of the equipment. OPA has recently removed these items from the list of equipment for which no fuel oil rations were previously allowed.

Coal Production Lags
Coal production for the first half of 1943 was an estimated 1,729,000 tons less than for the same period in 1942. Solid Fuel Administrator Harold L. Ickes has reported, "The gravity of this loss of production is emphasized by the fact that the nation will need an estimated 25,000,000 tons of coal more this year than last," he said.

Casualties of War
Casualties of the United States Armed Forces from the outbreak of the war to July 3 total 91,644. This total, based on War and Navy Department reports, includes: dead, 16,696; wounded, 21,823; missing, 31,579; prisoners of war, 21,541. Of these, Army casualties total 64,621; Navy, 27,023.

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Escape Injury In Car Accident Last Tuesday

Ensign and Mrs. Paul William Rork, of the Naval Section Base, Morehead City, escaped injury when their car, a Plymouth sedan, went out of control on wet pavement about ten miles out on U. S. Highway 17 last Tuesday afternoon. The car, driven by Mrs. Rork, went off the highway and to the end of the wide shoulders, and barely missed turning over. Damage to the car was estimated at \$75.

Judge J. C. Smith Has Thirteen Cases In County's Court

Four Speedsters Fined at Rate of \$1 Per Mile in Excess of Limit

Thirteen cases were tried in Judge J. Calvin Smith's recorder's court this week with only a small number of spectators witnessing the proceedings. The vagrancy cases probably aroused the most attention. Solicitor Elbert S. Peel was the prosecutor.

Ben Bennett, Jr., charged with vagrancy, was found not guilty when it was shown that he had worked 419 hours in the past ten weeks. Oliver Bonds, charged with vagrancy, was found guilty. He was sentenced to 30 days on the roads, sentence suspended for six months upon payment of \$40 and costs and that he be regularly employed.

Nancy Felton paid a fine of \$15 and costs after being found guilty of assault with deadly weapon. Charged with assault on female, Jesse Davis was sentenced to the road for 90 days with sentence suspended upon payment of \$20 and costs.

Owen Baker, charged with drunk driving and driving a car with no operator's license, paid a fine of \$50 and costs. The court recommended that he be issued no driver's license for one year.

S. T. Perry, charged with allowing an unlicensed and intoxicated person to drive his car, had judgment suspended against him upon

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Three County Boys Enlist In The Navy

Martin County's record of patriotism, builded from the days of the Revolution, is still being maintained by the youth of today. Navy Recruiter Dallas R. Taylor announced this morning that three more Martin County lads had volunteered their services, that they left yesterday for Raleigh to undergo final examinations. Their acceptance depends upon their examinations, and it could not be learned immediately if they had passed the tests.

The names of the 17-year-olds volunteering their services this week are: William Herbert Perry, Jr., of RFD 1, Jamesville; Vernon Gray Cowan, of RFD 3, Williamston; and William Arthur Bell, of Williamston. The first two boys are white.

During the months of May and June, North Carolina led the nation in the number of enlistments, and Martin County contributed approximately twelve recruits.

Army Convoy Moves Through Here For Carolina Maneuvers

Julian Roebuck, Local Boy, Is Recognized as He Pilot- ed Little Jeep

American forces are at the scenes of action in great numbers, and the fellows there can tell Adolf, Mussolini and Hirohito that others back home are preparing for action in even greater numbers. The Army's maneuvers somewhere in Carolina, the Army started moving through this part of the State Wednesday and yesterday, the boys just about took over the highways. The size of the convoy was not revealed and its destination was not officially announced, but the movement is believed to be the largest to travel this way since the first few days of the war. One report stated the men were from the Chesapeake area, that maneuvers in certain swamp areas were to be held.

Quite a few convoys have moved through this section since the war started, and possibly a few Martin County boys were in them, but yesterday was the first time that any home talent was recognized among the faces of the youthful and strong-looking soldiers. Seated behind the wheel of one of those little jeeps, Julian Roebuck, youngest son of Mr. J. H. Roebuck, whooped and waved at his friends and acquaintances all through town. Possibly the visit was the most hurried one he had ever made, and incidentally it was his first in some time.

Apparently in the best of spirits, jolly and happy, the soldiers waved freely as they passed through the main streets here. An observer heard an unusually loud greeting and a more or less frantic waving of the hand, the soldier greeting him by name. But the convoy was moving rapidly and identity could not be established.

It is believed that the young man was one of a group entertained here over night many months ago.

The convoy carried all kinds of equipment, including mobile kitchens with the chefs busily carving inviting chunks of beef even as the vehicles moved rapidly forward.

Infantry, field artillery, engineer and quartermaster units will participate in the rehearsal for actual combat. The movements will cover many types of terrain, but marshes and swamps will predominate.

The maneuvers will be observed by Lieut. Hugh A. Drum, commander of the Eastern Defense Command and the First Army, and Brig. Gen. Rollin L. Tilton, commanding the Chesapeake Bay Sector, embracing an area from Maryland to North Carolina.

Electrical Storm In County Tuesday

Two mules were instantly killed and a third was burned when lightning struck the barnlot of Postmaster Lewis Johnson at Oak City last Tuesday afternoon. Five other mules in the same lot and near the two that were killed apparently did not get hurt. No damage to other property was reported.

The bolt was one of several reported to have struck in this county during the storm. Some damage was done but no one was hurt when lightning hit the home of Mr. and Mrs. Billy Griffin here that afternoon. Persons in the home were jarred a bit but not badly hurt.

Lights in several homes in that neighborhood were burned out, but damage was slight.

Down in Jamesville, lightning struck and fired the home of Mrs. Della Askew. No one was hurt and the fire was soon put out. In another part of town, lightning struck and fired the home of a colored family three times in fairly rapid succession. No one was hurt and the fires caused very little damage. The electrical storm there was accompanied by a heavy rain, one report stating that it was possible to paddle canoes up and down the streets and on the main highway at one point.

The storm in this area was accompanied by a strong wind, but damage was confined to a small streak. Part of the Roy Ward home on the McCaskey Road was blown off its foundation, and a few trees out on the Hamilton Road were blown down.

About one and one-half inches of rain fell at this point in less than forty-five minutes.

The heavy rain Tuesday marked the end, temporary at least, of the wet season that threatened crops in this section. So far this month 5.36 inches of rain have fallen here.

EAT OUT

Local Kiwanians have literally eaten themselves out of a club, a report from the serving committee stating that the regular meeting scheduled to have been held last night was called off when sufficient ration points could not be had for the purchase of foods.

No eats, no meet, the officers agreed. But plans are being advanced whereby meetings can be held at times without a meal to help bridge the meetings over the ration gorge.

Will Open Used Furniture Store Here In Next Few Days

Remodeling the building formerly occupied by Pittman's next to the Enterprise Publishing Company, John Wier plans to open a used furniture store within the next week or ten days. No opening date has been fixed. Inventories are being ordered, Mr. Wier said this morning, and we plan to offer some good bargains to the people of this section in good second-hand furniture.