

Boy Loses His Life In Storm Late Yesterday

Jos. Kelly Harrell Is Fatally Hurt When Barn Top Blows Off

Wind and Hail Damage Done To Crops in Several Parts of County

Joseph Kelly Harrell, fourteen years old, was fatally hurt and considerable damage was done to property and field crops north of Oak City late yesterday afternoon when a strong wind or a little tornado and hail swept over a fairly large territory in that area. Some hail and wind damage was reported near Robersonville and in the Bear Trap section of Bear Grass Township, but the storm apparently was centered in that area surrounded by Hamilton, Oak City and Palmyra. Complete details could not be had immediately, but the damage according to preliminary reports will run into a fairly large amount.

The youth, seeing the approaching storm, went to a tobacco barn to close the ventilators in the top. He had hardly reached there when the storm struck and blew the top of the barn off and carried him to a nearby field. His injuries could not be determined immediately, but he died before medical aid could reach him. The barn top was blown 250 feet away from the barn and partly wrecked. The youth, blown in the same direction, was found in a pile of tobacco that had already been cured. It was thought by his parents that he was safe under the shelter, but when he failed to return to the house they went to look for him. He had been in the rain for some few minutes and was unconscious. He died ten or fifteen minutes later, one report stated.

As far as it could be learned no great damage was done to other buildings in that section, but out in Bear Grass Township, the wind lifted Farmer Wheeler Rogerson's tobacco barn off its foundation and damaged his car shelter.

Light and power service in Oak City was interrupted, and had not been restored in its entirety shortly before noon today.

Accompanying the high wind that blew down trees of fairly large size, a heavy rain and hail storm struck, damaging crops on the farms of J. T. Moore, Smith Brothers, A. P. Hyman, J. A. Johnson, W. J. Johnson.

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Allied Blitzkrieg Is Sweeping Westward On Sicilian Island

Orel Defenses On Russian Front Crumbling Before Mighty Red Army

Employing blitzkrieg tactics, Allied forces on Sicily are sweeping out in nearly every direction to knock the foundation from under the island's defense offered by about seven Axis divisions, including picked Italian and crack German troops. The fall of the island is expected in due time, but just how long the opposition will be continued by the battered defenders is a matter of speculation. Late reports place the Americans in the extreme northwestern part of the island and in possession of Palermo which was taken early yesterday. The American Seventh Army has equalled everything Hitler could offer in the way of a blitz, and today less than one-fifth of the island remains in the hands of the enemy.

General Montgomery, battling 40,000 picked German troops at Catania, is said to have by-passed the base, leaving the defenders little to hope for except assault from three sides. A late report stated that an entire Italian division had surrendered, that the number of prisoners falling into the hands of the Allies now exceeds 60,000.

Resistance has crumbled over all the island except one or two areas where the Germans are apparently fighting a delaying action to give more time for an evacuation at Messina.

Italian fighting spirit sank almost to zero, with fresh bunches of prisoners telling how their officers were attempting to escape in borrowed civilian clothes. The often-resuscitated 10th Bersaglieri regiment was wiped out of the action for the third time, it was disclosed, when it surrendered at Agrigento without firing a shot.

The communique of headquarters lagged more than 24 hours behind as Gen. Patton's vanguard raced through difficult but poorly-defended mountain country toward Palermo and swept on toward Marsala and Trapani.

Large civil and military stores fell into Allied hands in the capture of (Continued on page six)

Tenth Man From The County Makes The Supreme Sacrifice

DECREASE

A marked decrease in activities on the crime front is reflected in the jail turn-key records and reports from Justice J. L. Hassell's court during the past few days.

Only one person has been jailed recently, and just two cases have been heard by Justice Hassell this week. Henry A. Bunch was taxed with \$5.50 costs for the improper operation of a car, and Matthew Ward, charged with disorderly conduct, was taxed with \$6.05 costs.

Williamston Peanut Factory Damaged by Fire Tuesday Night

Fourth Story Ceiling Charred And Much Stock And Machines Damaged

Fire of undetermined origin threatened the large plant of the Williamston Peanut Company here at 9:20 last Tuesday night, members of the volunteer department stating that the fire barely missed being one of the most serious in years. When discovered the fire was burning through the weather, boarding of the fourth floor near the roof on the southwest corner out of the immediate reach of the sprinkler system within the plant. The fourth floor was filled with smoke and could not be reached from the inside, but the fire on the outside was brought under control when firemen pulled a line of hose to the second story roof and directed a stream of water to the spot for a few minutes. Spreading on the inside, the fire soon started the sprinkler system to work, but not until considerable damage had been done to machinery, the fourth room ceiling and stock. When one of the elevator belts burned in two it carried the fire down the elevator shaft to the first floor and within a few minutes' time it was burning from top to bottom. Ripping off a few boards on the second floor, firemen were able to direct a stream of water first down the shaft and then to the top to bring the fire under control. Peanut hulls in the blower system smoldered all night and until 11 o'clock Wednesday morning when workmen tore into the pipes and wet them.

No official estimate on the loss could be had immediately, but it is fairly certain that the damage will run well into the thousands of dollars. It was learned that about 200 bags of farmers' stock peanuts were either ruined or damaged, that several thousand pounds of shelled goods were also damaged. Workmen started cleaning up the plant yesterday, but it could not be learned how long it would take to make the necessary repairs and reopen the plant. One report stated that necessary repairs could hardly be completed within a week or two, but possibly temporary repairs could be made and make it possible to reopen the plant and handle the remainder of the old crop within a short time.

Closed down for several weeks when the available supply of peanuts was exhausted, the plant had resumed operations just a few days (Continued on page six)

Director of Civilian Defense Will Speak

Mr. R. L. McMillan, State Director of Civilian Defense, Will Be the Chief Speaker at the Court-house in this County Thursday Evening at 8:30 o'clock.

Mr. McMillan comes to share in the awarding of the insignia of all members of the local Civilian Defense Corps. This will be the first award made to this corps.

In order to qualify, most of the groups, such as auxiliary police, firemen, bomb squad, air raid wardens and others have to take from ten to twenty hours of First Aid, three to five hours of fire defense, five hours of gas defense, three to five hours of general and five hours of drill. The rescue squad has to take more hours than most other functioning groups.

Most members of the Williamston group had completed their basic training except for the gas many months ago, and since it was required of all members of the defense corps, no one could be certified. Recently, Dr. H. M. Taylor, State Gas Consultant, gave the necessary training, thus a portion of the corps will receive the insignia and other members may get theirs as soon as the gas training is available.

The general public is urged to be present to hear the leader in State civilian defense, Mr. McMillan, while in town, will address the Kiwanis club that evening at 8:30 o'clock.

Truckload of Hogs Wrecked Near Here

Falling to sleep last Tuesday night about 11 o'clock, George Washington Currie, colored, ran a large truck and trailer off the highway a short distance south of the Old Mill Inn on U. S. 17, the vehicle turning over and spilling 74 sizable hogs and other cargo items in Farmer John Green's peanut patch. Currie and a companion were slightly bruised, but two hogs were killed and a third came out of the wreck with a broken leg.

Highway Patrolman W. E. Saunders and neighbors took part in the hog round-up catching twenty-five that night and the remainder Wednesday morning. The round-up was not completed until \$50 worth of Farmer Green's peanuts had been trampled on one side of the road and about a \$15 damage had been done to Farmer Bob Lee Perry's peanut. Some damage was done to 68 new automobile batteries and nine drums of white lead, the patrolman estimating the over-all damage at about \$300.



LT. THOMAS J. MEESKES
son; Roland Moore, of Williamston, RFD 3; Louis Thomas Holliday, of Robersonville.

Add Second Story To Community Hospital

To Start Work On 14-Room Addition Early Next Week

Contract Calls for Completion Of Project In About Eight Weeks

Outgrowing its capacity twice within two years, the Brown Community Hospital will be enlarged a second time within the next few weeks, Dr. Victor E. Brown, the owner-operator, stating yesterday that the contract had been let and that the contractor, F. B. Birmingham, will start construction work possibly next Tuesday with the expectation of completing the project in eight or ten weeks.

The plans call for a second story and extensive alterations in the appearance of the present structure. The hip roof will be replaced and a large porch with high columns will be attached. Providing twelve private rooms and two for utility purposes, the addition will boost the hospital's capacity to thirty-five beds.

For months, activities in the hospital have been more or less limited because the accommodations were not adequate to meet the needs of the community. Dr. Brown worked and worried with building permits and material shortages to meet the increasing demand for hospital attention and medical care on the home front.

Four years ago, next Monday, the hospital received its first patient, Mrs. Chas. Edwards. Since that time it has averaged about eighteen patients each day, the number of operations running into the hundreds. A year ago last March, the hospital was enlarged to accommodate about 25 bed patients.

While the new construction work will somewhat interrupt normal activities, Dr. Brown states that the institution will remain open, that by doubling up some of the work, he and his staff of nurses will be able to carry on very effectively.

Recognized as a valuable asset to the community and section, the hospital has, as its building record well proves, enjoyed a rapid growth. It has proved of great worth to many, and especially have the sick in the outlying areas found it convenient (Continued on page six)

Judge J. C. Smith Tries Three Cases In Court Monday

Heavy Fines Imposed in Two Cases Charging Liquor Law Violations

Cooperating with officers against offenders of the liquor law, Judge J. C. Smith placed heavy fines on violators in the county recorder's court this week. Only three cases were tried by Solicitor Elbert Peel and two of those cases charged violation of the liquor laws.

Arousing great interest among spectators was the case of aged Milton James, colored man and property owner of the Free Union section of Jamesville Township, who was brought on a stretcher into court. James was indicted on three accounts for having illegal whiskey in his possession for sale, and it was brought out in court that though he has been warned by officers not to sell whiskey, had persisted, using the fact that he was an invalid as his protection from the jurisdiction of the courts. He paid a fine of \$500 and costs.

Crawford Howard pleaded guilty to having forty bottles of home brew in his possession and he was sentenced to ten days in jail and required to pay a fine of \$100 and costs.

The only other case called for trial during the session was the one against Stanley Lee MacNeal who was found guilty of simple assault and sentenced to the roads for 30 days.

Judge Smith continued the other cases on the calendar under prayer for judgment.

The session lasted hardly more than one and one-half hours and a fairly sizable crowd was present for the proceedings.

Officers Wreck Liquor Still Wednesday Morning

Raiding in the Great Branch section of Robersonville Township last Wednesday morning, ABC Officer J. H. Roebuck and his assistant, Deputy Roy Peel, wrecked an old liquor still. The plant had not been in operation recently and there was no beer and little equipment on hand. They wrecked the still, a gas drum, and two fermenters.

Seventy-One Tires And Two Cars Are Allotted By Board

About Half of the Tires Go For Cars and Pick-Up Trucks

The Martin County War Price and Ration Board approved applications for two cars at their regular meeting on Friday night. Miss Marian Stallings, of Jamesville, was issued a car for use in vocational home economics in Beaufort County. E. T. Smith, of Palmyra, farmer and merchant, was issued a permit for the purchase of a car for use in his work.

Thirty-nine Grade I passenger and pick-up tires were allotted by the board, eight truck tires and twenty-four Grade III tires, making a total of seventy-one tires.

The following Grade I passenger tires and tubes were issued:

R. C. Griffin, Williamston, one tire.

Overton James, RFD 1, Williamston, one tire and one tube.

B. S. Courtney, Williamston, one tire.

Dr. V. A. Ward, Robersonville, one tire and one tube.

A. C. Boyce, RFD 2, Williamston, one tire and one tube.

J. H. Harrell, Williamston, one tire.

Jasper J. Bennett, Everetts, one tire and one tube.

G. C. James, RFD 1, Williamston, one tire and one tube.

W. R. Banks, Williamston, two tires.

E. D. Chandler, Robersonville, one tire and one tube.

G. G. Bailey, Everetts, one tire and one tube.

Roberson Slaughter House, Williamston, one tire and one tube.

Willie Evans, RFD, Williamston, one tire and one tube.

Clem Carr, RFD 2, Robersonville, one tire.

W. M. Cross, RFD 2, Robersonville, one tire.

Daniel Moses, RFD 2, Williamston, one tire.

M. D. Davis, Williamston, one tire.

George Hopkins, RFD 1, Jamesville, one tire and one tube.

Raleigh L. Terry, RFD 1, Robersonville, one tire.

Howard Coltrane, RFD 1, Williamston, one tire.

Foy Rogerson, Robersonville, one tire.

H. A. Jenkins, Robersonville, four tubes.

Claudius Hardison, RFD 1, Williamston, one tube.

H. G. Harrison, RFD 2, Williamston, one tire.

J. N. Hopkins, RFD 1, Williamston, one tire.

Lester L. Everett, Robersonville, one tire.

W. B. Rogerson, Robersonville, one tire.

Sallie Roberson, RFD 1, Williamston, one tire.

Claud Keel, Robersonville, one tire.

Larry Bunting, Robersonville, one tire.

D. B. Latham, RFD 1, Palmyra, one tire.

W. L. Pollard, Robersonville, one tire.

S. H. Roebuck, Robersonville, one tire.

P. C. Edmondson, Hassell, two tires and two tubes.

George A. Halslip, Hassell, one tire.

Home Mission Committee, Williamston, one tire.

A. R. White, Williamston, one tire.

R. O. Purvis, RFD, Bethel, one tire.

Herbert Sexton, Jamesville, one tire.

J. H. Hopkins, Oak City, one tube.

Henry D. Harrison, Williamston, one tire and one tube.

The following truck tires were issued:

Henry C. Griffin, Williamston, two tires and two tubes.

Tilmon Coltrane, Williamston, one tire and one tube.

Van G. Taylor, RFD 3, Williamston, one tire.

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Draft Board Officials Meet Here Last Night

"A" COUPONS

After what has seemed to be a long, long time to many A-card holders, gasoline coupons No. 6 in A books became valid yesterday. However, the 8 coupons in the book must last for the next four months, under present regulations, which means that there is mighty little driving in sight for them. Coupon No. 5 expired Wednesday and is no longer valid.

Each of the eight coupons is good for three gallons of gas, but since there are 17 weeks in the next four months, this means that A-card holders can only use slightly less than 1-2 gallons a week. When originally issued in July of last year, each A coupon was good for 4 gallons of gas and each series of eight tickets had to last only two months. Maybe some time those happy days will return again.

Cites Advantages Of Tobacco Quota System To Farmer

Price Average Eleven Cents In Five Years Prior to 1934, Hedrick Says

Raleigh—The fact that tobacco grown in this State during the past eight years has averaged for this period more than 24 cents per pound must be attributed largely to the painstaking efforts now being employed by the farmers in the production and handling of this crop for market, according to W. P. Hedrick, tobacco marketing specialist with the State Department of Agriculture.

"Although because of the whims of the weather it is too early to prophesy what the quality of our leaf will be this season, we do know that for several years now it has shown general improvement from year to year," said Hedrick. He added that tobacco producers are now taking a more scientific viewpoint in the care of their product.

By reducing the acreage, the government has forced the farmer to devote more attention to the yield per acre and to the condition of his tobacco when it is placed on the warehouse floor.

"Hit-or-miss methods are disappearing," says Hedrick.

In 1929, the average acre of tobacco in North Carolina yielded 665 pounds. But in 1934—when AAA began operations—the yield per acre jumped to 847 pounds.

During the past five years Tar Heel tobacco farmers have pulled from the soil devoted to this crop nearly 1,000 pounds per acre. This has been accomplished by the better preparation of the land, the use of more fertilizer, and the closer spacing of the rows and the plants.

As a result of this attention to greater yield, North Carolina produced more tobacco last year, for instance, than in 1932 when the acreage was unlimited.

Despite the increased yields and high production figures, however, there has been a great demand for tobacco, Hedrick explains and follows this with this comparison of figures: the average price of tobacco in the five years prior to 1934 was less than 11 cents per pound as against the more than 24 cents per (Continued on page six)

Native of County Passes in Hospital

Mrs. Annie Burroughs Satterwhite, native of this county, died some time during last Monday night in a Raleigh hospital where she had been a patient for thirty-four years. She had been declining physically for two or more years, and had not spoken for nearly eighteen years.

The daughter of the late William and Barbara Manning Burroughs, she was born near Williamston 67 years ago, the 27th of next month. She was very popular in her early girlhood, and in 1903 married Reuben Satterwhite, Granville County man who had moved to Martin to take part in the movement introducing tobacco culture to the farmers of this section. He died in 1908 and a short time later she entered the hospital for treatment.

No children survive the union, but she leaves three sisters, Mrs. W. F. Allen and Mrs. I. L. Peed, of near Williamston, and Mrs. A. L. Hardy, of Bear Grass.

Funeral services were conducted at the Biggs Funeral Home on West Main Street here yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock by Rev. Thomas House, Robersonville Methodist minister and pastor of Vernon Church. Burial was in the Burroughs Cemetery near the old family home.

Deferments Refused In Nine Of The 21 Cases Under Review

I-A Rating Is Given When No Farm Plan Is Filed by Registrant

Holding their first meeting in some time, Martin County Draft Board officials last night reviewed twenty-one cases, and considered several appeals that had been filed by parents who would have their sons discharged from the Army.

Nine of the registrants up for reclassification were placed in the I-A group, deferments, ranging from three to six months, having been granted in the others. Registrants whose ages range from eighteen to twenty-five years have little chance of getting continued deferments in vital industry jobs after the first deferment expires, it was pointed out. At least two of the nine placed in the I-A classification last night were single men in that age group who had been granted previous deferments. One of the nine who could possibly qualify for a farm classification had no farm plan to support such a classification and he was placed in the I-A group. It was reported at the meeting that there are possibly 300 farm registrants in the county who do not have farm plans available to support their claims for "C" or farm classifications. These men are now subject to reclassification and call. During the past several months action in such cases was delayed until they could be reviewed by the draft authorities and the County War Board. That work is nearing completion, and the draft officials are now looking squarely at those farm registrants who have not filed required farm information to the proper authorities in the county agent's office.

In those cases where the parents are trying to have their sons discharged from the Army, the County Draft Board has very little power to act. The board cannot institute action in support of a discharge, and even after the case has been investigated, the only thing the board can do is to review the case just as if the registrant was coming up for classification the first time. If the board finds that a 2-A or a "C" classification could be effected, it makes the notation, but final action is up to the Army authorities. It has been pointed out that only extreme cases (Continued on page six)

Community Ceiling Prices for Most Food Items Now in Force

Said By Grocersmen To Be About Same as Those Now In Effect Here

Community ceiling prices for practically all food items sold in county grocery stores became effective last week, it was announced by W. R. Burrell, chairman of the ceiling price panel of the local War Price and Rationing Board. Schedules are being furnished all retailers showing the prices in dollars and cents, and each store is required to display the entire schedule at a convenient place where it can be easily consulted by consumers.

More than 300 items are enumerated in the new price list, which applies to stores in practically all counties of eastern North Carolina. The list as furnished gives the highest prices at which all classes 1 and 2 stores may sell the specified items. Class 3 and 4 stores are not covered in the list which became effective last week, but there are few county stores included in these two groups.

Group 1 stores are independent retail stores with annual gross sales of less than \$50,000. Class 2 stores are independent stores with annual sales in excess of \$50,000 but less than \$250,000. Class 3 includes chain stores with gross sales of less than \$250,000. It is provided that farmers shall be considered class 1 retailers.

It was stated by leading grocers here that the community price ceilings set up in the new schedules are substantially the same as prices now prevailing. Some items are a little higher and others are a little lower but it is reported that most prevailing prices are in line with the schedules.

Most of the items quoted are the same for both class 1 and 2 stores, although in a few cases class 1 stores may charge 1 cent more than class 2 stores. A few examples of the new ceiling prices are cited below:

Chase & Sanborn, Lord Calvert and Luzianne Coffee are all quoted at 33 cents pound; Maxwell House, 35 cents. Jewel and Wesson oil are 34 cents pint, 63 cents quart. Practically all grades salmon in tin contain (Continued on page six)