

Local Market To Open Tuesday

Believed Big Moves In Europe's Theater Are In The Making

Sicilian Campaign Just About Completed; Russians Push Forward

With the Sicilian campaign just about completed, attention has been shifted for the moment, at least, to anticipated moves that will possibly include an invasion of the continent. There's nothing certain about such plans as far as the general public is concerned, but the atmosphere in England carries the feeling that something big is brewing. Some observers believe no invasion of Italy will be undertaken at this time, and now that the work in Sicily is virtually completed, they are guessing that plans will be made for a direct strike against the Hitler fortress on the Continent.

American soldiers marched into Messina on the island of Sicily late last night to mark the virtual close of the campaign there. The Germans are said to have made a good job in evacuating their troops and equipment, but sizable forces of the enemy have been trapped and evacuation plans are over for them.

While a lull exists on the land front for the Americans and British in the European area, the air war is being stepped up against Italy and Germany. Turin in northern Italy was successfully pounded last night and Munich is a second Hamburg. The Turin raid is prompting the common people in Italy to revolt, and they are coming out in the open demanding the abdication of Emmanuel, the marionette king, so called. Occupied France and airfields in the lowlands have been attacked repeatedly during the past few days, and Berlin got another dose from the air.

In England, non-residents have been ordered out of certain coastal areas, and there is the belief that an invasion will be launched possibly "before the autumn leaves fall." On the enemy side, the Germans are apparently anticipating an invasion of Norway.

The Roosevelt-Churchill conference, tentatively scheduled some time this week, will likely discuss second front plans along with the Italian situation, including the semi-official announcement declaring Rome an open city.

The Russians have developed their drive against the Germans around Kharkov and Bryansk into a great offensive, late reports stating that another big battle between the two forces is underway just north of Kharkov. The Russians are within twelve miles of Bryansk and appar-

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Last Call Issued For Farm Plans

Virtually completing the classification of farm registrants in this county, the draft board recently sent out a last call to those farmers who had not filed their farm plans with the war board in the county agent's office. In substance, the notice states that unless the required information is submitted immediately—by Thursday of this week, in some cases—"eligible men on those farms will be made subject to induction after that time."

A short time ago, it was estimated that farm plans for nearly three hundred farm registrants had not been filed in the office of the county agent for review by the war board. The classification of farmers has been going forward slowly for months, and the work is about complete except for those who have had no farm plans filed for them.

V. E. & P. Employees First To Pledge Ten Percent In Bonds

Rising and falling with the season's financial tides, Martin County folks have not subscribed their war bond quotas since the second big drive was completed a few months ago. However, with the marketing season at hand, it is sincerely believed that the people of this county will make up the deficits and go over the top from about August 24 on.

Employees of the Williamston District of the Virginia Electric and Power Company have already set the pace by signing up every one of its employees in the bond buying program. At the present time, the group, working on a one hundred per cent basis, is investing more than ten per cent of the monthly income in war bonds. The group includes all workers, the manager on down to the janitors. Several other firms in the county have fairly large percentages of their employees participating in

Town Orders Twenty-Cent Decrease in Rate

IN HOSPITAL



Howard B. Cone, son of Mrs. P. B. Cone of Williamston, is in an Army hospital somewhere in the South Pacific. He is believed to have been hurt or wounded during the recent campaign on New Georgia Island.

Death Rate In The County Smaller In 1942 Than In 1941

Review of Vital Statistics in County for the Past Two Years

A review of vital statistics for Martin County during the past two years reveals that the rate of births in the county is far in excess of the number of deaths for these consecutive years. Last year there were 692 births in comparison to 159 deaths, showing more than four times as many births as deaths. In the previous year, 1941, there were 685 births and 205 deaths, a rate of three times as many births as deaths.

For the year 1941, the birth rate stands at 26.3 compared with the death rate of 7.8 per 1,000 population. For the year 1942 the birth rate is shown at 27.0 per 1,000 population with the death rate for the same year as low as 6.1.

The statistics for both years show the colored race possessing the high rate figure for the two years. In 1941, reported births for the colored race was 386 in comparison to 299 births reported by the white. For the same year 101 deaths were reported by the whites and 104 reported by the colored. Last year the white race reported 319 births and 73 deaths; the colored race reported 373 births and 86 deaths.

There were 73 illegitimate births in the county in 1941, four among the white and 69 among the colored. In 1942 there were 48 illegitimate births with three among the white and 45 among the colored. Of the 685 births in 1941, there were 191 attended by midwives and 494 by doctors.

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Representative To Explain Drive For War Relief Fund

Representative Avera, of Rocky Mount, will explain plans for a war relief fund drive before a group of interested citizens in the courthouse tonight at 8:30 o'clock. The meeting is open to the public.

Funeral For Small Child Held In County Monday

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. B. T. Hurley yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock for Ruby Catherine White, five months old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William White, at the home of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Slade White, in Poplar Township. The little child, a victim of pneumonia, died in Norfolk at 12:15 a. m. Sunday. She had been sick a very short time.

Besides her parents, she is survived by a brother, William Randall. Burial was in the Spring Green Cemetery.

Reduction Is Based Mainly on Decrease In Bond Fund Debt

Budget Figures for Most of The Departments Are Left Unchanged

One of the biggest single reductions ever effected in the local tax rate was announced during a meeting of the town authorities last night when they adopted the proposed budget for the 1943-44 fiscal year. The proposed rate is twenty cents under the 1942-43 figure and now stands at \$2.20. The rate is still on the high side, but since 1933 it has been brought down gradually from an all-time peak of \$2.70 on the \$100 assessed property valuation. It was pointed out that the bonded debt reached its peak last year, that the principal and interest payments will reflect a small but steady decrease from year to year in the future.

The reduction comes with very little change in the over-all budget with the exception of the bond fund account. A \$4000 decrease in bond principal requirements along with a \$2,000 decrease in bond interest accounts for the reduction for the most part. The \$32,135.00 increase in assessed property values was hardly large enough to affect the rate either way.

About the only changes in the new budget was an increase in the salaries of employees in two departments—fire and street and water. The superintendent and assistant were allowed \$5 increases per week, and the firemen's pay was boosted from \$2.50 to \$5 a month, the budget makers conservatively estimating that the \$5 would just about pay the firemen's pressing bills and replace in part clothes damaged by the volunteers at fires.

The library appropriation was increased from \$300 to \$600, but the increases combined will not boost the total figures by hardly \$1,500.

A new department—the cemetery—is included in the budget figures for the first time, the figures showing a proposed appropriation of \$3,770 for the upkeep of the grounds.

With a cash balance of \$17,594.00 to start off with, the authorities estimate that \$35,851 in current taxes plus the revenue from other sources will run the town for the new fiscal year. It is estimated that \$9,000 will be collected on old taxes, that profits from the County ABC store accruing to the town will amount to \$2,500 and that water sales will add \$14,000. These figures plus income from the sale of auto tags, privilege licenses, mayor's court and swimming pool will boost the total revenue to \$82,645.

General administrative expenses will approximate \$15,150.00, including \$3,770 for the cemetery, \$4,500 for the contingent fund, assistant clerk's salary of \$1,560, and \$1,000 for legal and audit and a few other items. It is estimated that the swimming pool will cost \$2,452.00, that the street department will require \$13,300, the water department, \$10,890 and the police department, \$8,745. Debt service, requiring \$29,442, boosts the grand expenditure total to \$82,645.

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ROUND-UP

Following a busy and hectic period on Saturday night, a week ago, local and county officers had it unusually quiet last week-end. Only one person was arrested and jailed locally, the county officers boosting the total to three when they detained a couple of men of their own. One was charged with drunk driving, a second was charged with non-support and a third was charged with disorderly conduct.

TOWN - FARM IN WARTIME

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

Agricultural Payment Rates

A revised scale for payments to farmers under the 1943 agricultural conservation program has been set up by WFA to adjust available funds to the increased number of eligible farmers. The revised rates (with the former rates in parentheses) are: Cotton, one cent per pound (1.1 cents), corn, 3 cents per bushel (3.6 cents), and wheat, 8.5 cents per bushel (9.2 cents). Rates remain unchanged for rice and tobacco.

Equal Draft of Fathers

Drafting of fathers with children born before September 15, 1942, will begin at approximately the same time throughout the Nation, the Selective Service Bureau of WMC said recently.

August Crop Report

The following comment on the August crop report was made recently by Marvin Jones, War Food Administrator: "The July crop report made it clear that farmers in the face of many difficulties had substantially met, and in some cases exceeded, the crop acreage goals. During July, growing conditions were favorable and current indications are that yields per acre in 1943 will be the second largest on record. The progress of the year's production so far is gratifying. The hard work and the determination of farmers have placed us in a position to meet essential food needs, given average weather from now on."

"However, the crops are still to be harvested, marketed, and processed, and, in the case of the feed crops, fed to livestock. Farmers will need additional workers for harvest, and food processing industries are short handed. The wartime food problem is not solved, though present production prospects are encouraging."

War Ballots For Army

Blank forms are available to all officers and enlisted men of the Army to enable them to apply for war ballots for elections to be held this year. The War Department reports, Public Law 712 requires these forms to be available in years when officers of the national government are elected. The forms will also enable legally qualified soldier voters to participate in state elections.

Food Prices Down

"Retail food prices as a group—representing about two-fifths of total living costs—declined by 2.0 per cent." Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins said recently in discussing changes in the cost of living from June 15 to July 15. "Clothing costs rose 0.5 per cent. Other costs, including house furnishings, utility rates and services, were stable or increased moderately." With meat prices cut back by OPA and vegetable seasonally lower, the cost of living for city workers dropped 0.8 per cent.

Howard B. Cone In Pacific Hospital

Following sixteen "memorable and miserable" days spent in a South Pacific campaign, supposedly on New Georgia Island, Howard B. Cone, young son of Mrs. P. B. Cone of Williamston, was evacuated and is now in an Army hospital somewhere in the South Pacific for treatment of a finger infection. In a letter, written by a hospital companion, Howard told his mother not to worry, that he was being well cared for and that he would likely be confined to the hospital two more months. The letter was written on August 3rd.

Commenting on the sixteen days he was on the front lines, Howard said, "During the last few weeks I have endured the most memorable and miserable period of my life." Although he was unable to write, he declared to his mother that his condition was not serious.

Asked to be remembered to his friends, the young man who left Williamston in January, 1942, expressed the hope that others will never have to face the horrors of war as he had experienced them.

Mobilization Meeting Is Postponed For Few Days

A meeting of the Martin County Labor Mobilization Board tentatively scheduled for the latter part of this week has been postponed, Chairman Hugh G. Horton stating this morning that the board members would be called together the early part of next week.

Mr. Horton explained that he was being called to Raleigh on Friday of this week at which time it is thought the duties of the board would be explained in detail. During the meantime, the groundwork for an effective drive against vagrancy and loafing is being handled.

Fair-Sized "Break" Of Tobacco Expected On Local Warehouse Floors For Opening-Day Sales

Enterprise Reviews A Few "High Spots" In County's History

Paper Indebted to Miss Leach And Messrs. Hassell and Biggs For Aid

After a struggle bordering at times on the hectic side, The Enterprise is issuing its annual tobacco edition today, adding a little to the bit of recorded history for the town and county. While no apology is offered, the management does think it only fitting to point out that the regular personnel in the office was materially reduced by the draft, that it was under a strain approaching the terrific at times during the recent hot days that the "skeleton" force remained at its task to throw together the edition in time for distribution today.

But for the aid of Miss Doris Leach, teacher in the local schools, and that of Messrs. Warren Biggs and C. B. Hassell and a few others, it would have been next to impossible for the paper's force to issue the edition. Their gracious aid is duly acknowledged here.

Numbering right at 3,000 copies, the edition is now on its way for distribution in forty or more of the forty-eight states, in the far reaches of the frozen north, in the jungles of the South Pacific, in Africa, Sicily, England, and other countries and territories. It is the sincere wish of the publishers that the readers will find the contents, both the ads and little stories, interesting, informative and enjoyable. Comments are not especially solicited, but any and all will be appreciated.

Turning to the tabloid section one will find a varied list of stories. On the first page, Mayor John L. Hassell extends a hearty welcome to all visitors, and Mr. C. B. Hassell offers a brief historical sketch of the town. Then further on, Mr. Hassell recalls early baseball history in Williamston. The accomplishments of the Williamston's War History Club are reviewed in a brief history of the organization. Brief biographies of a few of the well-known citizens of the town of years gone by are offered by Mr. Hassell. Included in the list are sketches of the lives of John Dawson Biggs, John R. Lanier, Martha Maria Hassell, S. Romulus Biggs and Stephen W. Outerbridge, well known county education. Most of the sketches were written from memory, but in the main they are substantially correct.

Then there's another story dealing with the county courthouses. It is pointed out that the first courthouse was built on the lands of one John Griffin somewhere on Concho Creek. James L. Pritchard, Hamilton man, recalls some of his experiences in World War I. There's a brief review of the history of the Hamilton Baptist Church.

The last hanging in the county is recalled in a story by Miss Leach. A roster, apparently incomplete, of men from this county who served in the war is given.

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Fire Damages Warehouse In Backlot Here Friday

Its origin unknown, fire damaged the small storage warehouse of the Harrison estate back of Rose's dime store here late last Friday afternoon. No estimate on the loss could be had at once, but one report placed the damage at less than \$150.

The fire had gained considerable headway when it was discovered, but it had hardly broken through the side of the building before it was brought under control. A few showcases and counters were damaged.

CARDS

Over 1,500 tobacco marketing cards are being placed in the mails today for Martin County farmers. They should be in the hands of all the growers with few exceptions by Thursday or Friday of this week.

Approximately 50 cards are being held in the office, a few because the owners did not submit field measurements and the others, or about thirty, because the owners overprinted their allotments. In the latter case, the farmer will be asked to report direct to the agent's office for his card and he'll get a red one.

OFFICE HOURS

The attention of the general public is again called to the schedule of office hours observed by the Martin County War Price and Rationing Board. The office is opened each morning at 8 o'clock six days to the week and closes at 5 o'clock in the afternoon except on Mondays, Tuesdays and Saturdays when it closes at 12 o'clock noon. The board members are generally in the office each Monday evening along with the members of the several panels.

It was pointed out that the office is handling much of the ration work by mail directly with the general public, making it necessary to close each Monday, Tuesday and Saturday afternoon.

Seventy-Four Tires Allotted in County By Rationing Board

List of Applications that Can't Be Filled Reaches New High Figure

Drawing to the limit of its quota, the Martin County War Price and Rationing Board last Friday allotted seventy-four tires, the list of unfilled applications reaching a new high figure. Unless an extra allotment is allowed, it is fairly certain that some vehicles will be forced off the highways in this county.

Two cars were allotted by the board last week, one to Herbert Taylor, drug salesman of Williamston, and one to Roland Lilley, farmer of RFD 1, Williamston.

Grade I tires and tubes for passenger cars and pick-up trucks were allotted to the following:

- J. E. Copeland and Son, RFD 1, Palmyra, one tire and one tube.
- O. G. Carson, Jamesville, one tire and one tube.
- H. G. Harrison, RFD 2, Williamston, one tire.
- N. W. Worsley, Oak City, one tire.
- H. A. Bowen, Williamston, one tire.
- C. C. Bailey, RFD 3, Williamston, one tire and one tube.
- Miles R. Lilley, RFD 1, Williamston, one tire and one tube.
- P. C. Edmondson, Hassell, one tire and one tube.
- K. S. Bunting, Oak City, one tire and one tube.
- H. C. Roberson, Williamston, one tire and one tube.
- R. L. Whitehurst, RFD 3, Williamston, two tires and one tube.
- H. P. Mobley, Williamston, one tire.
- George Haislip, Hassell, two tires.
- Larry Bunting, Robersonville, two tires.
- Nathan Bullock, Everetts, one tube.

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Tobacco Barn Burns In County Last Sunday Noon

A tobacco barn, located on the Eli Harrison farm in Cross Roads Township and belonging to Farmer J. S. Ayers, of Everetts, was destroyed by fire last Sunday noon.

It is understood that the barn was the only one in that section lost by fire during the 1943 season and one of very few lost in the county. The man was fined \$500 and taxed with the costs by Judge Smith for alleged violation of the liquor laws on three counts.

Advised by the sheriff that a second trip to court was in the offing, James stated that he could be found at home any time.

No warrant has been issued in the case, but one is pending, it was learned.

Postal Receipts Reach A New High Figure In Past Quarter

An all-time high point was reached in postal receipts in the local office during the quarter ending last June 30, according to a statement released a few days ago by Assistant Postmaster F. Earl Wynne. A year ago, the office reported a record business when the receipts amounted to \$5,576.90 during the months of April, May and June. Last quarter the receipts amounted to \$6,801.44. No single factor supporting the big increase could be offered, but Mr. Wynne did say that many stamps, both the regular and air mail type, were being bought by persons writing to service men.

The money order business also showed a fairly large increase despite shortages. A year ago, the outgoing money amounted to \$25,143.03 for the quarter. Recently, the amount jumped to \$34,217.41. At the same time, the office reported an increase in the amount of money orders cashed locally. The figure was increased from \$14,898.18 in the second quarter of 1942 to \$22,867.49 last quarter.

Along with the increased business has come a certain amount of confusion and delay in handling letters and other types of mail improperly addressed. The assistant postmaster points out that if the patrons of the office will advise their correspondents of their rural route and box numbers or street and house numbers the mail can be handled more effectively. "We are having a fairly large volume of misdirected or improperly addressed mail, and much of it was arising from failure to return the sender," Mr. Wynne explained.

List Of Buyers On Market This Season Is Released Today

Houses To Start Receiving First of Current Crop Later Part of Week

Preparations were announced virtually complete for the opening of the Williamston Tobacco Market next Tuesday morning. Already "Tobacco Town" is buzzing with activity. Farmers are coming in in fairly large numbers making arrangements for delivering their first graded leaf for possible sale the first day. A few tobaccoists, drawing assignments on the local market, have already reported or duty. Those jobs, so often left to be handled at the last minute, have been or are being attended to at this time, and warehousemen declare they will be all set for the first loads the latter part of the week and for the big day next Tuesday.

Williamston's warehouse operating personnel remains the same as it was last season, but quite a few changes have been made in auctioneers, office men and buyers, the warehousemen pointing out the changes are for the best.

At this time, it is impossible to predict with any degree of accuracy what size the opening sale will be next Tuesday. Reports from the country state that packhouse doors are wide open, that grading work is underway on a large scale. "We are looking for a fairly large sale, but no record one," a warehouseman was quoted as saying this morning. With prices fairly well stabilized, indications point to orderly marketing activities from the start. That the market will possibly block is fairly certain, but no glut is being predicted at this time.

Urbn Rogers, returning as the market's supervisor of sales, announced today that the market will have possibly the strongest set of buyers in its history. Mr. A. C. McClure is returning for the R. J. Reynolds Company along with Messrs. Thomas "Timbo" Jeffress for the Imperial, Norwood Thomas for the J. P. Taylor Company, Arthur Beale for the Washington Tobacco Company, Iverson Skinner for the W. I. Skinner Company. The list for the season includes four new buyers, in addition to several representatives of independent companies. The

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New Case Pending Against Violator

Milton James, Jamesville Township colored man and invalid, is staring the courts in the face again after a hectic round with Judge J. C. Smith in the county tribunal just a few weeks ago. Making him an impromptu visit last Sunday morning, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck found James with company and a gallon of white liquor on hand.

The man was fined \$500 and taxed with the costs by Judge Smith for alleged violation of the liquor laws on three counts.

Advised by the sheriff that a second trip to court was in the offing, James stated that he could be found at home any time.

No warrant has been issued in the case, but one is pending, it was learned.