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Tobacco Market Glut Follows Curtailment In Selling Hours

Stop Grading Until Blocks Are Cleared

Sales on Local Market Well Over Two Million Pounds For Season To Date

A regular marketing jam has followed generally throughout the belt following the sudden curtailment of selling hours, the situation, approaching a near desperate point, reflecting a critical labor shortage in the redrying plants as well as in the warehouses and intermediary points. The rush here late yesterday and last night almost got out of hand despite pleadings of the market operators who urged the farmers to use discretion.

The buying companies, thinking at the first of the season that a reduction of one hour in the daily selling schedule would solve the problem, now are convinced that the curtailment is not sufficient. Receiving stations and redrying plants are blocked, and pressure is being forced from the top all the way down the line, and it is indeed clear that the farmer has the only solution to the problem. While reports from some sections state that grading is actually being rushed, other reports state that farmers are closing their grading rooms and will try to alter their marketing schedules to fit in with the pace the markets can maintain in the face of serious labor shortages.

Unofficial reports state that some markets have more tobacco on their floors than can be sold before next Tuesday. The Williamston market had approximately 300,000 pounds on its floors this morning, and it is fairly certain that about one-third of the amount will be carried over until next Monday before it can be sold.

The sudden introduction of the curtailed selling day caught many farmers with graded tobacco on their hands, and naturally they are anxious to get it marketed. Warehousemen and buyers are doing everything in their power to help relieve

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Will Inspect Farm Security Projects

Congressman Herbert Bonner, representatives of the State and Regional Farm Security offices, county officials and others will make an inspection tour of Farm Security projects in this county tomorrow, it was announced this week. While the group is at liberty to choose its own route of travel, the following tentative schedule has been offered: Leave Williamston at 9:30 for Howard Hopkins in Williams Township, thence to Clyde Williams near Williamston, thence to S. H. Roebuck's in Robersonville Township and to Robersonville for lunch in the Hotel Wilson at 1:20. That afternoon the party plans to go to Geo. Ayers' and Mack Cherry's in the Hassell community, and on to the Oak City-Hamilton area, stopping at the Whitaker farm, near Williamston on the return trip.

The party will travel in about six cars and plans to return to Williamston between 4 and 5 p. m.

Infant Injured In Auto

Accident Last Week

Nina Paul, eleven-months-old daughter of Seaman and Mrs. Jack Edmondson, suffered a double skull fracture and a concussion last Wednesday morning when the car in which she was riding struck a telephone pole in Snow Hill. The child was removed to a Kinston hospital where her condition continues serious, according to last reports reaching here.

The little girl and her aunt were passengers in the car.

Can't Find Owner of Tobacco Believed To Have Been Stolen

Many, many times, officers admit they have been unable to find goods stolen from rightful owners, but few times have they been unable to find or even search for an owner of stolen property. According to reports coming from Sheriff C. B. Roebuck's office today, approximately 750 pounds of tobacco on a Robersonville warehouse floor are literally begging for an owner.

ENROLLMENT COMPARISON

Exceeding the 3,000 mark, opening-day enrollment figures in the ten white schools of this county were considerably higher than were expected. While school officials are not very optimistic over the prospects for an increase as the term progresses, they were well pleased with the first day record. A total enrollment of 3,008—2,224 in the elementary and 784 in the high school departments—was reported opening day. It is 130 short of the first day enrollment figure, a year ago. While eight of the ten schools reported a decrease in enrollment, a sizable portion of the loss is centered in the figures coming from Jamesville where the count was 49 points below the one of a year ago. Bear Grass and Everetts actually had fairly sizable gains.

The tabulations below offer a comparison of the enrollment figures in the ten white schools, by departments for the opening day on Wednesday of this week and the one a year ago:

	1942			1943		
	Ele.	H. S.	Total	Ele.	H. S.	Total
Jamesville	351	97	448	309	90	399
Farm Life	123	69	192	125	64	189
Bear Grass	220	61	281	239	66	305
Williamston	579	204	783	564	185	749
Everetts	198		198	228		228
Robersonville	294	249	543	283	229	512
Gold Point	60		60	55		55
Hassell	60		60	51		51
Hamilton	187		187	169		169
Oak City	217	169	386	201	150	351
	2289	849	3138	2224	784	3008

More Martin County Men Called By Army

BLACKOUT

The Williamston Air Raid Warning district had its seventh test blackout last Wednesday evening when the multiple signals were employed for the first time. While the signals were possibly not well understood, darkness held the district in its grip with one or two exceptions until the all-clear was given about fifty-five minutes later. According to the district warden's report, there was some misunderstanding of the signals in Oak City, and the test was not a complete success in Everetts, Plymouth, Williamston, Columbia, Windsor and several of the smaller centers in the district reported a successful test.

County Young Man Wounded In Action

John Goodman Getsinger, young Martin County man and son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John A. Getsinger, of Dardens, was wounded in action during the Mediterranean campaign, supposedly in Sicily on or about July 11, according to unofficial information received here a short time ago.

Few details could be had, one report being that the boy suffered a foot wound and that possibly he would be in the hospital for two or more months. It is understood he was a member of a tank corps.

A graduate of State College, Raleigh, First Lieutenant Getsinger volunteered for service soon after the start of the war. Just prior to that time he was employed as a chemical engineer in Asheville. He married in western Carolina.

He is the ninth Martin County man reported to have been wounded in the war.

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Nearly Half Of The Group Reported for Previous Inductions

Eight Married Men, Two with Children, Included in Current Call

A fairly large group of Martin County colored selectees left for an Army induction station this week in answer to Selective Service's September call for men. Finding its supply of men about exhausted in the 1-A classifications, the draft board reached into the 4-F group and pulled about sixteen men or nearly half the number answering the current month call. With the exception of eight married men, two of whom had children, youths recently becoming eighteen years of age constituted virtually the remainder of the group. The draft isn't taking bona-fide married men with children as yet, one unofficial report stating that the two included in the current call had left or deserted their families and were not contributing to their support. Five or six hungry mouths were left behind by one selectee, and with the soldiers' allotment act in effect those mouths possibly will get more with their papa in the Army.

Several of the men were registered for the draft as late as the latter part of last May. One farmer had lost for one reason or another his "C" classification and he was included in the group answering the current call.

Quite a few of the selectees were working in industry at various points in the country and they chose to be inducted there rather than make the trip to the induction station from their home county.

The names, registration address and last addresses of the men are

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Mysterious Plane Flight Reported

A plane flight, described as a bit mysterious and certainly unusual, was reported in the Hamilton area Wednesday afternoon. Only a few scattering reports have been received here, but it is fairly certain that no plane crashed in that section that day.

Red Cross Bandage Room Scheduled to Reopen Next Week

account of the shortage of materials the Martin County Red Cross Chapter bandage room will reopen in the quarters over the Western Auto Store next Monday night, the chapter chairman announced today. The September quota calls for the folding of 9,000 16x12 gauze bandages, and it was pointed out that the production is urgently needed, that delivery is wanted as soon as possible.

A second and much larger quota is expected within the next few days, and more volunteers are asked to report to the bandage room from time to time.

Mrs. John W. Williams will open the room next Monday night, and it is hoped other leaders will report according to their old schedules. At the present time the project has no chairman and it is quite possible that the room will be closed after the current quotas are met unless someone agrees to accept the chairmanship. Any one who will consider the assignment is directed to contact J. C. Manning, county chapter chairman, at the courthouse.

Successful Opening Of County Schools Is Reported This Week

"Short" Schedules Apparently Working Well in Most All the Districts

Despite war, labor shortages and uncertainties, the ten white and twenty-three colored schools reported a successful opening in this county last Wednesday. Enrollment figures were very encouraging for the most part with only a few disturbing situations in the county. Over-all enrollment figures were 130 below those reported a year ago, but even then they were better than had been predicted. The outlook is not very bright, however, since attendance figures yesterday and today started tumbling in some of the schools. Everetts, the school that is struggling to regain a lost teacher, reported 22 absent this morning. However, the attendance is higher than it was a year ago.

It is fairly apparent, judging from reports coming from various districts, that the parents and other patrons are ready and willing to make every effort to keep their children in school. Upon that attitude rests largely any degree of success the schools attain this term.

A book shortage was reported in several districts, unofficial reports stating that the state distribution follows a slow system, but that sufficient quantities of the text are to be made available shortly.

The comparison of school enrollments for the current term and the previous one offers a fairly good picture of the attendance trend for the first days of the two terms, but it should be remembered that there was a drop last term from the preceding one.

Incomplete reports heard here today indicated that the "short" schedule is working fairly well in all the colored schools and in the eight white schools where the system has been adopted. Williamston and Farm Life are maintaining a regular schedule, but this week the local plants operated until 1:15 because the main room was not ready to open. Next week the school will open at 8:30 here and adjourn for the day at 3:10, and the lunch rooms will function. However, a poll of the rural patrons is being taken and if there is sufficient demand for it, the "short" schedule will be adopted here. It is possible Farm Life will maintain a regular schedule for the present, at least.

All teachers were present for the opening except two, and those positions will be filled within a few days.

Bus operations are being advanced

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CHAMPION

More evidence in support of splendid prospects for a bumper corn crop in this county was offered by Farmer Jos. R. Harrison yesterday when he plucked an ear of corn at random from his twenty acres and counted an even 1,300 grains, his count beating the previous record of 1,240 grains reported by Farmer C. B. Fagan, of Dardens.

Mr. Harrison, who lives not far from Everetts, is really proud of his corn crop. Last year the dry weather got his crop and he hardly raised enough to furnish his table with bread, but this season the crop is the best he has ever seen on his farm.

Meeting Here Wednesday Night Makes Ready For Big War Loan Campaign Starting September 9

County Is Asked To Invest \$918,000.00 For the War Effort

Hugh G. Horton Appeals To Group For Support in All-Out Financial Task

Meeting in the county courthouse here last Wednesday evening, County Chairman D. V. Clayton, district chairmen and other interested citizens, numbering about fifty, made ready to launch one of the greatest financial drives in the history of the county. Starting next Thursday, the group, aided by willing volunteers, will go out and sell during the Third War Loan Drive \$918,000.00 in United States Government bonds. The district leaders while recognizing the size of their task did not complain and they did not say the task could not be successfully handled.

Briefly addressing the meeting, D. V. Clayton, county chairman, outlined the mission to be handled. Martin County was asked to raise \$328,000 in April. More than \$452,000 was invested at that time, and "I believe we can subscribe and possibly over-subscribe the new quota." According to Mr. Clayton, the nation is being asked to invest 15 billion dollars in bonds during the Third War Loan drive opening September 9th and continuing through the 30th. Of that amount, North Carolina is being asked to raise 145 million dollars.

On a quota basis, Martin County is slightly below the average for the State. "It is a huge task and it will call for a direct house-to-house canvass throughout the entire county," Mr. Clayton said. It means that on an average, every man, woman and child in the county must invest at least \$36.72 in bonds, a mighty small sum when placed beside the sacrifices made by some over 2,000 Martin County men in the line of personal duty.

Addressing the meeting, Attorney Hugh G. Horton referred to the drive as one of the most important in the history of the county. While he was pledged to secrecy, Mr. Horton, making a trip to the Norfolk Naval Operating Base last week-end, said he saw enough to know that what we are asked to do and are about to do right here in Martin County during the War Loan Drive

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Big Reduction In County Taxpayers

Traceable mainly to the withdrawal of young men for service in the armed forces, a big reduction in the number of taxpayers is noted this year as compared with the listings of January 1, 1942. According to a fairly complete comparison of the lists for the two years, the number of taxpayers in the county dwindled during the past year from 7,587 to 6,959, a decrease of 528. It was believed in some quarters that the reduction would be even greater since it is conservatively estimated that more than 2,000 Martin County men are in the service. Apparently the number was drawn mostly from the group between 18 and 21 years of age, or else the draft got some of the tax books did not get.

A comparison in the number of taxpayers for 1942 and 1943 follows, by townships:

	1943	1942
Jamesville	786	869
Williams	321	351
Griffins	423	428
Bear Grass	428	464
Williamston	1747	1916
Cross Roads	422	451
Robersonville	1263	1353
Poplar Point	208	226
Hamilton	627	649
Goose Nest	755	760
	6959	7487

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Few Cases Heard By Mayor Hassell

Whether it is the quiet before the storm, Justice John L. Hassell would not venture to say when he reported three lone cases called in his court during the past several days.

While the world prays for peace, the Mayor's subjects are taking up fighting on an increased scale. Defendants in past months have seldom stood charged with fighting, but during recent days three such cases were heard by the Justice.

Lossie Hagans and Hilda Mae Reed were each fined \$6.50 as costs in the case charging them with an affray. Oscar Whitley and Jeremiah James, facing a similar charge, were each fined \$2.50 and taxed with the costs. A simple assault cost "Sweetie" Williams \$6.

CHAIRMAN

The basic organization for advancing a \$9,500 war relief fund drive in this county about the middle of October was finally and definitely formed this week when Mr. N. C. Green accepted the county chairmanship. Despite his many and pressing duties, Mr. Green, recognizing the value of the United War Relief movement, willingly accepted the big job and pledged his best efforts in proving to the fighting men on the fronts and suffering humanity in Greece and other distressed areas that Martin County people are ready and willing to do their part on the home front.

Mrs. C. T. Roberson Passes In Hospital Tuesday Afternoon

Funeral Services for Prominent County Citizen Are Held Wednesday

Mrs. Allie Griffin Roberson, highly respected and well-known county citizen, died in a Washington hospital at 12:45 o'clock last Tuesday afternoon following an illness of two weeks' duration. Taken ill about two weeks ago, Mrs. Roberson suffered an attack of pneumonia and complications developed. A blood clot was given as the immediate cause of her death.

The daughter of the late William J. Griffin and wife, Mrs. Roberson was born in the Fairview community of Williams Township on April 6, 1884. As a young woman and after completing her education, she started teaching school, and for almost a quarter of a century worked with the youth in the Hardison, Correy and Lilley's Hall school districts. She endeared herself to those she served, ever striving to better the lot and welfare of the common man. Her untiring work in those little country schools has yielded a bountiful harvest, and her fine ideals and Christian-like character live in the actions of many today.

About 1912 she was married to Charles T. Roberson who died in 1935. They made their home in the Farm Life community of Griffins Township and she continued her untiring work in the schools for a number of years. She joined the Primitive Baptist Church at Smithwick's Creek more than a quarter of a century ago and was faithful in her attendance upon its services, enjoying the fellowship of a people she loved and to whom she had endeared herself as a public servant.

For a number of years after retiring from the teaching professions she and Mr. Roberson operated a store on the site where she once taught school. It soon became the center of community activities, large numbers of people gathering there from the surrounding area for a friendly atmosphere and exchange the views and news of the day.

About a year following the death of her husband, Mrs. Roberson moved to Williamston and built a home on Marshall Avenue. She was first employed by the Williamston Hardware Company here, later going with the Martin Supply Company as its capable and efficient bookkeeper.

During her stay here she was active in civic affairs and was a

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Quotas For Various Districts Are Fixed By County Chairman

Chairmen Name Their Assistants in Nine of the Eleven County Districts

Volunteering their services, between 75 and 100 Martin citizens will carry the Third War Loan drive into every home in the county beginning next Thursday. In behalf of these people who have to make a living, too, it is pointed out here that they are receiving no remuneration and any and all expenses are borne by them as individuals. They are not begging for themselves or anyone else; they are merely trying to help finance the herculean task this nation is forced to handle and to help bring peace. Everyone is urged to buy a bond, and to remember not to ask the canvassers to call back at such and such a time. Act for their convenience.

Robersonville and Williamston have not announced their canvassers as yet, in fact, some have been a bit reluctant to enter into the task in Williamston, but others are pledging their services. The names of the chairmen and canvassers in the nine other districts are, as follows:

Jamesville: Chas. Davenport, chairman; J. P. Jordan, J. A. Gardner, O. W. Hamilton, C. C. Fleming, R. L. Stallings, Geo. L. Cooper, David Holliday, H. L. Davis, Leo Gardner and Clarence Barber.

Williams: Joshua L. Coltrain, chairman; C. L. Daniel, O. S. Green, W. J. Garner, Mrs. Fannie Myrt Harrison.

Griffins: Geo. C. Griffin, chairman; Mrs. J. Eason Lilley, Mrs. Nathan E. Roberson, Oscar B. Roberson, Tommie Gaylord.

Bear Grass: T. O. Hickman, chairman; Mrs. H. U. Peel, R. L. Perry.

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Big Truck Wrecked Near River Bridge

A big tractor-truck loaded with 131 cases of blue fish, trout and croakers, was wrecked on the fill near the Roanoke River bridge here yesterday morning at 2:18 o'clock. No one was hurt when a spring shackle broke and the powerful vehicle buckled and went to the side of the road but not all the way off the embankment. Damage to the rolling equipment and cargo was estimated right at \$3,000 by Patrolman Whit Saunders who with Corporal W. S. Hunt handled traffic until 1:00 o'clock yesterday afternoon while special wrecking equipment from Rocky Mount cleared the wreck.

Traffic was blocked at intervals during several hours. The truck, owned by H. E. Hudgins, was being driven by Graydon Edward Forrest, of Port Haywood, Va. He was accompanied by J. H. Owens, of Perry, Va. The truck was traveling from Cobbs Creek, Va., to Hampstead, below Camp Davis.

Minor Accident On The Everetts Road Tuesday

No one was hurt and the damage was estimated at hardly more than \$50 when two cars, one driven by Alton Buck Raynor, of Plymouth, and the other by Thurman Coolidge Perry sideswiped each other on a narrow bridge on the old Everetts-Williamston road late last Tuesday afternoon.

A fender on the Raynor car was ripped off and the Perry car lost a light.

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Long Awaited Second Front Opened In Italy Early Today

The long awaited opening of a second front against Hitler and his hordes was reported this morning at 4:30 o'clock when General Montgomery's Eighth Army, including British and Canadian forces, stole across the Messina Strait and landed on Italy's mainland. Only meager reports came out of the area immediately following the drive, but it was admitted that the defenders were offering a stubborn opposition.

Allied paratroopers have been dropped behind German lines, and a firm beachhead has been established by the invaders. German spokesmen said that no Americans took part, that the raid was only a feint. They also declared that the Americans now idle, are marking time preparatory to a big drive somewhere else. Few details of the invasion are expected before to-

morrow when the second official communique is scheduled to be released.

Observers were quick to look upon the invasion as a matter of diversion, but they admitted that the annexation of Italian airfields would improve the Allied position and the psychological effect would be great.

While the Eighth Army stole across the narrow strip of water under the cover of darkness, Allied armor were closing a possible avenue of escape for the Germans in the north by bombing and wrecking important transportation routes leading to the Brenner Pass. It is estimated that thirteen German divisions or about 200,000 men are now in Italy to meet the invaders.

On the Eastern front, the Germans (Continued on page six)