



THE ENTERPRISE



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Red Army Crossing Old Polish Border In Great Offensive

High German Authorities Are Believed Trapped in Mass Air Raid

Unleashing one of the greatest offensives of the war, the Russians were said today to be right at the old 1939 border of Poland, that some of their soldiers were pouring across the line with Warsaw as their goal. The plight of the Germans is further aggravated by the possibility that the Red Army forces will swing southward and trap possibly twenty Nazi divisions in the Dnieper bend.

The northern tank and cavalry spearheads of Gen. Nikolai F. Vatutin's army of 500,000 gained seven miles in one day as they advanced up the Kiev-Warsaw railroad to take Olevsk, a border area town of 5,600. It was considered possible that some of Vatutin's advance guards already might have driven across the frozen marshlands along the pre-war Polish-Russian border.

Vatutin's men, completing the 11th day of their offensive which has carried them more than 100 miles westward toward Germany, captured a total of more than 170 towns and settlements yesterday in broadening the front to 250 miles, extending from Olevsk on the north down around to Piatigory, 76 miles south of Kiev.

Although the advance toward pre-war Poland was of dramatic interest to the outside world, Vatutin's smashes south and southwest toward the Dnieper Bend were of great military importance for they indicated that the Russians were driving toward the major rail junctions of Vinnytsa, Shepetovka and Kristinivka, all key points in the constant battle of communication lines which marks the fighting in Russia.

After yesterday's fighting the Russians were 22 miles from Vinnytsa and 83 miles from Rumania, 34 miles north of Kristinivka, and 27 from Shepetovka.

The rapid sweep the Russians are making is worrying the Rumanians, and a late report states that the government is moving westward from Bucharest. The Germans are admitting that their armies are fleeing westward, one report declaring that the retreat was disorganized.

In Italy, weather conditions are limiting activities to patrol work for the most part, but the Canadians are gradually driving up the Adriatic coast.

Navy Secretary Knox says that the Japs are decidedly on the defensive in the Pacific, and that an invasion of the Marshalls is to be expected shortly. Effective offensives, including air attacks, have been directed against the Japs during the past several days.

A high spot in the air war reports was the bombing of Berlin for the fifth time in ten days last Sunday night. Several high-ranking German officials are believed to have been trapped in an air raid shelter. Hitler, firmly convinced that it was too hot for him in his chancellery in Berlin, was not in the hole, according to reports.

Following an RAF attack over Western Germany last night, the Americans bombed the French rocket cost effectively this morning.

Andrew Mobley Dies At Home in Everetts Early This Morning

Funeral Arrangements Delayed Pending Word from Son in Army Camp

Andrew Mobley, retired farmer and well-known citizen of Everetts, died at his home there this morning at 6:30 o'clock following a long period of declining health. He suffered a stroke of paralysis about four weeks ago and his condition had been serious since that time. However, he was conscious up until just a few hours before he died.

The son of the late James and Christine Mobley, he was born in Jamesville Township 77 years ago the 8th of last October. He spent his early life on the farm there and when a young man was married to Miss Katie Simpson of Jamesville Township. The family moved to Cross Roads Township and returned to the Jamesville area for a short while before locating in Everetts about a quarter of a century ago. He was the last of a family of twelve children. A member of the Cedar Grove Free Will Baptist Church, he attended services regularly and was held in high esteem by all who knew him.

Besides his wife he leaves six children, John Mobley, of Bear Grass; Archie Mobley, of Everetts; George Mobley, of Williamston; Alexander Mobley, of Palmyra; Pfc. Nathan Mobley, of Camp Gordon, Georgia, and Miss Fannie Belle Mobley, of Portsmouth and Oak City.

Funeral arrangements are being delayed pending receipt of word from his son in the Army. The services will be held at the late home and interment will follow in the Everetts Cemetery.

Gasoline Shortage Likely To Cause County Schools to Close

The closing of all county schools is a direct result of a gasoline shortage which was considered a direct possibility by education authorities here this morning. It was announced at that time that the supply of gasoline on hand would be exhausted tomorrow, that unless deliveries are effected by noon tomorrow it would be impossible to transport the rural children to the schools Thursday morning, and that the suspension would be for an indefinite time.

Schools in several counties have already suspended operations as a result of the gasoline shortage, and apparently the shortage is becoming more acute as it spreads to other sections.

The last delivery was made under contract in this county on the 14th of last month. Other deliveries have

been expected since that time from day to day, but according to the latest information that could be had here the distributor's bulk tank was empty and it could not be learned when a new supply would be made available. The approximately 36 buses, using about 300 gallons a day, are supplied from a 2,500-gallon capacity tank and the last of the supply is being distributed today, it was learned. A big transport truck, operated by the company holding the school contract, was seen here this morning, but it could not be learned if part of the load would be delivered to the schools or not.

The public gasoline supply is said to be running low, but with normal consumption no acute shortage is anticipated.

Tax Listing in County Gets Underway Today

IN ENGLAND



The grandson of the late Augustus Whitley, the Martin County man who was farthest at Gettysburg, Pfc. Franklin Bruce Whitley, pictured above and who for nearly twenty years was an employee of The Enterprise, is "vacationing" somewhere in England as a guest of Uncle Sam. He's getting along all right, last reports state, but ready to come home.

Mrs. Belle Manning Dies Suddenly Here Early Monday Night

Funeral Services Will Be Held This Afternoon from the Biggs Funeral Home

Mrs. Sillar Belle Manning, highly respected local citizen, died suddenly at her home on South Watts Street at 6:05 o'clock last evening following an illness of short duration. Although she had not experienced the best of health for a year or more, Mrs. Manning was unusually active in and about her home up until late Sunday when she stated that she did not feel well and retired a bit earlier than usual. Choosing to remain in bed yesterday morning, she was given medical attention and was thought to be getting along very well until late yesterday afternoon when her heart apparently gave way, the end following a short time later. She talked with members of her family just a few minutes before she died.

The daughter of the late William Eli and Arenia Taylor, she was born in Bear Grass Township on November 30, 1873, and spent her early life there. In 1906 she was married to Willis Biggs and located near Williamston. No children were born to the union and following his death in 1911, she returned to Bear Grass to make her home until 1913 when she married William Simon Manning and moved to Williamston to make her home and lived here since that time.

A thoughtful and considerate

SHORT SESSION

The local town commissioners were in session hardly more than twenty minutes last evening handling the little business on the calendar. O. S. Anderson was appointed tax list-taker for the town and he will handle the task right along with his duties as list-taker for the county.

The drainage problem caused by heavy rains was briefly discussed and the condition of the sidewalks at alley entrances was mentioned, but no action was taken to effect a remedy of the deplorable conditions.

TOWN - FARM IN WARTIME

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

Sugar Ration Remains Same
Sugar rations for home use will remain the same for another two and one-half months, according to the Office of Price Administration. Sugar stamp number 30 in War Ration Book Four becomes valid on January 16, and will be good for buying five pounds of sugar through the end of March. Sugar stamp 29, now in use, is good through January 15.

Pleanty of Anti-Freeze
The nation's motorists are being oversold on anti-freeze and told of shortages that do not exist, according to the War Production Board. Production of alcohol anti-freeze for this winter is 50 per cent more than last, WPB said, and asked motorists to watch their own needs and not to overload. Alcohol from which anti-freeze is made is a critical war material.

Items No Longer Rationed
Pressure cookers and feed grinders and crushers have been removed from rationing. Because the supply of pressure cookers will not meet all uses, the approval of the War Food Administration is necessary for purchases of pressure cookers for other than food preservation uses. Application should be made to the Director, Office of Materials and Facilities, War Food Administration, Washington, D. C.

Use Copper in Tractor Radiators
Restrictions on the use of copper in farm tractor radiator fins and power take-off gears have been removed by WPB. These uses of copper, particularly in radiators, not only will reduce time of manufacture of farm tractors, but will improve their field performance.

Tire, Tube Supply Still Low
Tire and tube quotas for January reflect the continuing shortage. The quota of 276,629 new truck tires is 13,890 less than the December figure, and the quota of 230,400 new truck tubes is 27,787 under the December figure. Similarly, a lessening in demand which usually occurs during the colder months accounts for

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Local Man Gets Coveted Award

Serving in Boy Scout work for fifteen years, Wheeler Martin, local attorney, yesterday gained special recognition from the East Carolina Council when he received the Silver Beaver award. It is the first time that the coveted award was ever made to a man in this county.

The award is made for noteworthy service of exceptional character to boyhood within the territory. It is the first time that the East Carolina Council could award three Silver Beavers.

The Council reviews Mr. Martin's scouting record, as follows:

This good Scouter has served in a volunteer capacity for 15 years. He received his Fifteen Year Veteran Badge this past summer. He started his services to boyhood as a Scoutmaster, where he made an exceptional record. When his district was organized he was elected its district chairman, and has served in that capacity ever since. However, not only has he served in the above volunteer capacities but was given council-wide service as board member; member finance committee; member budget committee; and has served in other duties that have taken much of his time, money and effort.

Schools Report Fair Attendance Records

Incomplete reports indicate that attendance records in the county schools are only "fair," that sickness and bad weather are keeping many children at home.

Principal D. N. Hix reported 83 absent in the elementary school here today and fifteen out in the high school, the attendance figure holding to a point slightly below 90 per cent.

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

While the war and resulting rationing, the appeals for safe and sane driving and lower speed limits may have had their effect, the 1943 accident record is worse than the one for 1942. The facts, based on official reports courteously released by members of the State Highway Patrol, speak for themselves, as follows:

52nd Week Comparison				
Accidents Inj'd	Killed	Dam'ge	1943	1942
10	0	\$ 775	1943	10
1	0	0	1942	1
Comparison To Date				
67	46	5 12,810	1943	67
64	41	4 8,758	1942	64

Young Man Loses Life In Automobile Wreck

Herbert Harrison Passes in Hospital Late Last Evening

Young Colored Boy Victim of Hit and Run Driving On Street Here

Herbert Harrison, young Bear Grass white man, was fatally hurt and Marshall Scott, young colored boy, was painfully injured in highway accidents in this section last week-end. Harrison, 29 years old, died in the local hospital last night at 11:30 o'clock, and Scott is getting along all right.

Riding with James Garland Rogers, Harrison suffered a broken neck and a fracture of the skull when a tire on the Rogers car blew out and the driver lost control just this side of Old Mill Inn on the Washington Highway. The automobile swerved off the road, struck a tree and came to a stop on Dennis Moore's lot fence. Harrison was pinned under the car. The two men were traveling toward Williamston Sunday afternoon about 4:45 o'clock. Rogers received minor cuts and bruises and his car was wrecked. Funeral services for the young man will be held tomorrow afternoon in Bear Grass.

The accident was the first one reported on the highways of this county in 1944, and followed one in which Marshall Scott was hurt on Williamston's west main street late last Thursday night.

Scott, riding a bicycle on Main Street, was run down and badly but not critically hurt by a car driven by John T. Hyman, Bertie colored man, about 10:45 that evening. Knocked off his wheel, Scott was thrown possibly twenty or twenty-five feet into Harry Jones' front yard. Suffering internal injuries but no broken bones, the 16-year-old colored boy was picked up by Officers Gurganus and Moore of the local police force and carried to the hospital.

Hyman, accompanied by Jesse Smallwood, George Outlaw, Mollie Allen, Willie Hill Allen and Esther Allen, did not stop but he was caught about an hour later by Patrolman W. E. Saunders on the Slaughter House Road. The right front light was broken and the fender and hood of the car were battered. When questioned by Patrolman Saunders, Hyman said he got excited, but planned to return. Charged with reckless, drunken and hit-and-run driving, Hyman was placed under a \$1,000 bond. Unable to raise that amount he was placed in the county jail. He will be given a preliminary hearing before Justice J. L. Hassell here on Friday evening.

Damage to Hyman's car and the boy's bicycle was estimated at \$75. Activities to date, paint a gloomy highway accident picture for 1944.

Funeral Tomorrow For Wreck Victim

Funeral services will be conducted Wednesday afternoon at three o'clock for Herbert Harrison, young Bear Grass white man, who was fatally injured in an automobile accident near Williamston last Sunday afternoon.

The services will be conducted at the home of a brother, Oliver Harrison, and interment will follow in the Harrison Cemetery, about a mile away in Bear Grass Township. Elmer B. S. Cowin will officiate.

The son of the late William R. and Sallie A. Gurganus-Harrison, he was born in Bear Grass Township about 29 years ago. He never married and spent all his life on the farm, working last year with Farmer Wheeler Rogerson. He was a good worker and had many friends.

He is survived by five brothers, Roy, Lemuel, Oliver, Elmer and Simon Harrison, all of Bear Grass, and a sister, Mrs. Archie Wynne, also of Bear Grass.

Aged Inmate Passes In County Home

Julia Camp, said to be 100 years of age, died in the Martin County Home on December 26 following a long period of declining health. Funeral services were conducted there on Monday last week by Rev. Gabriel Williams. Interment was in Potter's field, near the home.

While the old colored woman's age could not be definitely determined, there is little doubt but what she was over 100 years of age. She had lived alone in a small hut on South Pearl Street following the death of her husband, Dick Camp, until she entered the county home some over four years ago. She was born in this county and leaves no immediate relatives.

It is believed she is about the oldest if not the oldest person to have ever lived in this county.

Local Tobacconist Dies In Tennessee Fire Last Saturday

Funeral Service To Be Held For W. R. Ingram Here Tomorrow

W. Robert Ingram, highly respected local citizen and tobacconist, lost his life in a Fayetteville, Tenn., hotel fire last Saturday morning shortly before noon. Details surrounding his untimely and tragic death could not be learned in their entirety here immediately. It was learned, however, that death was caused by strangulation, that the body was not burned.

According to a message received here from Carl Clark, business partner of near Fayetteville, Tenn., and who was with Mr. Ingram in the hotel when the fire started, the two men started to leave the hotel. Mr. Clark was leading the way from their third-story room and thought Mr. Ingram was following directly behind him. "When I reached the hotel lobby, I missed Mr. Ingram," Mr. Clark was quoted as saying. It is believed that Mr. Ingram turned back to recover some of his personal effects from their room, and apparently was overcome by the smoke. Mr. Clark, it was also learned, attempted to go after him, but his way was then blocked by fire and smoke and he was forced to turn back.

Firemen, apparently approaching from another entrance, recovered the body a short time later. Except for a small bruise, believed to have been caused when he stumbled and fell, the body was not damaged. Most of Mr. Ingram's personal effects were recovered.

Spending the holidays with relatives in Danville, Mr. Ingram had registered in the hotel the evening before, preparing to continue his activities as an independent tobacco dealer on the market there during the remainder of the season.

Born in Nathalie, Halifax County, Va., on December 11, 1883, Mr. Ingram spent his early life on the farm. When a young man he entered the tobacco business and married Miss Hattie Lewis, of Halifax County, Va., about thirty-five years ago. He came to Williamston as an independent tobacco dealer in the early twenties, and immediately gained a large circle of friends. A few years later he formed a partnership with other tobacconists and operated the Farmers Warehouse for a number of years. More recently he was a government grader and an independent operator on the markets in this and several other states.

Few men have endeared themselves more to the people of this community than did Mr. Ingram during his residence here. He was a high-toned Christian gentleman, a thoughtful husband, father and grandfather. He was a deacon in the local Baptist Church for a number of years, and his association with his fellowman was marked by Christian ideals. He commended the respect and admiration of all who

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Williamston Native Passes In Hospital After Long Illness

Funeral Services Are Held in Rocky Mount Monday for Mrs. J. R. Bobbitt

Mrs. Julia Daniel Bobbitt, Williamston native and member of an old Martin County family, died in a Rocky Mount hospital last Saturday morning at 1:05 o'clock following a long period of declining health. She suffered a stroke of paralysis last Wednesday and was removed immediately to the hospital.

The daughter of the late William Edger and Sara Short Daniel, Mrs. Bobbitt was born in Williamston on August 30, 1883. She spent her early life in Williamston and in Georgia with her aunt, locating in Rocky Mount in 1905 following her marriage to J. R. Bobbitt. She had made her home there since that time. Mrs. Bobbitt, a devoted wife and mother, was a faithful member of the First Baptist Church in Rocky Mount for many years.

Surviving are her husband, J. R. Bobbitt; five sons, Joseph Roseer Bobbitt, Jr., reporter on the staff of the Virginian Pilot, of Norfolk; Lt. William Edger Bobbitt, USNR, of Norfolk; Tech. Sgt. James Miles Short Bobbitt, stationed at the U. S. Army Air Base at Rapid City, S. D.; Lt. (jg) Julian Daniel Bobbitt, USNR, on duty with the Atlantic Fleet, and Pvt. Robert Lee Bobbitt, medical student at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; three grandsons, two brothers, W. B. Daniel, Williamston chief of police, and Chas. L. Daniel, president of the Martin County Farm Bureau, and a sister, Mrs. John White, of Savannah, Ga., and four half brothers, Edgar Daniel, of Jacksonville, Fla.; H. L. Daniel, of Williamston, and Darrell and Ben Daniel, both of Norfolk.

Funeral services were held in Rocky Mount yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock by her pastor, Dr. J. W. Kincheloe. Burial was in the Pineview Cemetery, Rocky Mount.

VICTIM OF FIRE



W. R. Ingram, respected local citizen and prominent tobacconist, lost his life in a Fayetteville, Tenn., fire last Saturday shortly before noon.

Gradual Decrease in Number of Weddings Reported in County

Records Show That Health Law Curtailed Marriages More Than the War

For the second consecutive year there has been a gradual decline in the number of marriages in this county, but considering the fact that large numbers of young men have left the county for war, the decrease is recognized as being unusually small.

Reviewing the records in the county license bureau for the past thirteen years, one finds that Dan Cupid has experienced many reverses, that considering all his cares and woes, he has done an admirable job during the period. Back in 1931, that depression year, he negotiated only 126 contracts, 62 for the whites and 64 for the colored. He showed some signs of recovery the following year, and then in 1934 he was riding high with his work, handling 281 contracts, 116 for the white and 165 for the colored. The next two years were normal, but 1937 was a busy period, the register of deeds issuing 293 marriage licenses that year. The following twelve months were busy ones for Cupid, too, but in 1939 when the State Legislature passed the marriage health laws, the love-maker was dealt a definite setback. Only 159 licenses were issued that year, 81 to white and 78 to colored couples. He made a fairly quick recovery, however, and effected contracts for 226 couples in the year that war broke out on December 7. The number dropped to 220 in 1942, and it fell to 203 last year, but the decrease was confined to white couples.

The number of licenses issued to white couples dropped from 126 in 1941 to 100 in 1942 and to 74 last year, while the number issued to colored couples increased from 100 in 1941 to 120 in 1942 and to 129 last year.

Licenses were issued by Register of Deeds J. Sam Getzinger in this county last month to the following couples: nine white and sixteen colored.

White

Charlie Bullock, of Robersonville RFD 1, and Marie Page, of RFD 2, Williamston.

Albert Williams, of Plymouth, and Pearl Barber, of Jamesville.

William Elwood Cherry, of RFD 3, Washington, and Mary Elizabeth Jackson, of Washington.

Ensign Emel Alfred Berger, of Chicago and Harvey's Point, N. C., and Edna Earle Rawls, of Williamston.

Sgt. Elmer A. Conley, of Marietta, Ohio and New River, and Mary Elizabeth Whichard, of Robersonville.

Leslie McCoy Griffin and Nannie Veona Roberson, both of Williams-

SHORT SESSION

With very little new business on their calendar, the Martin County commissioners completed their work and adjourned before lunch at their regular meeting here yesterday. Tax matters were briefly discussed and a few relief orders were issued.

A special order was issued directing the treasurer to invest \$7,000 cash in the sinking in U. S. Government bonds. All members of the board were present for the meeting. Herbert Jackson was relieved of \$1 dog tax and Nathan Harrington was relieved of \$2.68 tax listed in error. Clayton Revels, now in the armed service, was relieved of \$1 poll tax.