



THE ENTERPRISE



VOLUME XLVII—NUMBER 2

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Friday, January 7, 1944.

ESTABLISHED 1899

Red Army Continues To Push Deeper into Poland's Territory

Renewed Activity Reported by American Fifth Army on Italian Front

Breaking across the old border of Poland earlier this week, the Red Army is widening its wedge in that territory from day to day, late reports indicating that the Russians have driven at least twelve miles westward, taking eighty towns and villages from the Germans. The march into Poland has created new problems on the diplomatic front, and observers are of the opinion that those problems will be further aggravated before they improve. Poland's underground army was instructed by the exile government in London to offer no resistance, but there was little sign at first that the Poles had joined hands with the Russians in the fight against Hitler. Russian diplomats point out that there is no argument over territory, that those lands commonly known as a part of White Russia and taken from the Soviet at the end of the last war rightfully belong to Russia. Germany encroached upon Poland on the west and Poland expanded its borders at the expense of Russia in years past. Russia further claims that there are no borders as long as Hitler remains unbroken.

In their latest push, the Russians yesterday killed 3,000 of the retreating Germans and also plunged southward to within 35 miles of the Warsaw-Odessa rail lifeline to the Dnieper bend.

Berlin intimated early today that part of Germany's huge Dnieper Bend army, estimated at between 500,000 and 750,000, already was fighting for its life against a Soviet pincer movement by the Red armies of Generals Nikolai F. Vatutin and Ivan S. Konev.

A Moscow communique last night announced the capture of Raktino in a fanwise sweep by General Vatutin's army, which Berlin said numbered 750,000 men besides "the reserves that still are moving up."

But Berlin broadcasts said the Soviet army pushing toward central Poland mostly was "marking time." Axis commentators were far more concerned, it appeared, with the massive swing southward toward Rumania and southeastward into the Dnieper Bend.

German broadcasts recorded by the Associated Press said frankly that General Vatutin's forces plunging beyond Belaya Tserkov toward the Cherkassy sector now were being aided by "a new major offensive" begun by General Konev's Second Ukrainian Army inside the Dnieper Bend.

A 65-mile gap separates the two Russian armies, and Berlin said the Germans in the upper part of the Dnieper Bend now were being hit from both the east and west. Axis broadcasts also reflected alarm over the rapid Soviet progress toward the

Local Youth Writes From Parris Island

Writing between "shots" from Parris Island, South Carolina, Murray "Buck" Holloman says, "I wish all the boys could take the training here. It is something that will do them good in time to come. This is a wonderful camp and I believe when they turn us off for combat duty we will make good Marines."

"I am getting along fine and enjoying every minute of it. The food is a hundred per cent better than that the people speak about, and it is food that will really build the body. This island is very large and very pretty to "look at." It's not anything like Fort Bragg. The worst experience I have had was going into the gas chamber without a gas mask for two minutes and then running for fresh air or breath."

"In the mess hall was plenty of turkey for everybody at Christmas. "You should see the hair cut they gave me. The barbers don't cut a small portion—they get it all. The clothes they issue us are the very best," the young Marine wrote.

Poultry Truck To Resume Its Schedule Next Week

Idle for two weeks because the operating personnel was sick, the poultry truck operated in this county by the Greenville Poultry Company will resume its regular schedules next week, it was announced today by the manager, Rufus Mayo. Every effort was made to maintain the schedule during this and last week, but it was impossible, Mr. Mayo said.

Three Cases Heard By Justice J. L. Hassell

Three cases were heard by Justice J. L. Hassell in his court here this week. Rufus Taylor and Clyde S. Batts, charged with being drunk and disorderly, were required to pay \$8.50 costs each. E. Roy Brown, charged with disturbing the peace, was required to pay \$6.50 costs.

Plans Are Made in the County For Infantile Paralysis Drive

L. Bruce Wynne, clerk of the Martin County Superior Court, this week was named chairman of the drive to raise funds for the common fight against infantile paralysis. The appointment was made by Dr. Ralph W. McDonald, state chairman, and announced by R. W. Madry, publicity chairman, Chapel Hill. Mrs. Glenn Norman, of Robersonville, was named as co-chairman, it was announced by Mary Pickford, movie actress who is serving as national chairwoman for the drive.

Announcing tentative plans for the drive which gets under way during the last two weeks of this month, Chairman Wynne stated that no birthday ball would be held this year, that direct appeals would be made to the people of the county. It is planned to advance the drive with the aid of the schools, women's civic organizations and through direct

mail solicitations. Coin collectors will be placed in stores and other public places throughout the county. In addition to making silver contributions to the collectors, the public will be asked to buy lapel buttons and make other donations.

Last year under the chairmanship of Mr. Iverson Skinner, the drive raised approximately \$365, the amount setting a new high record for the period since the program was inaugurated about ten years ago. No quota has been assigned the county this year.

Chairman Wynne said that no birthday ball would be held because the cost of such an event was so great and that, after all, little profit could be expected from that source. The chairman plans to visit most, if not all, the schools during the next week or two to complete plans for the campaign.

Illegal Liquor Traffic Is Well Under Control

RATION REMINDER

Gasoline — In 17 east coast states A-8 coupons are good through February 8.
Sugar — Stamp No. 29 in Book Four is good for five pounds through January 15.
Shoes — Stamp No. 18 in Book One is good for one pair. Stamp No. 1 on the airplane sheet in Book Three is good for 1 pair.
Fuel Oil — Period 2 coupons are good through January 24. Period 3 coupons, now valid, remain good through February 21st.
Meats, Fats — Brown stamps R and S are good through January 29. Brown stamp T becomes good January 9 and remains good through January 29.
Processed Foods — Green stamps D, E and F in Book Four are good through January 20.

County Truck Tire Allotment Greatly Reduced for Month

Total of Seventy-Nine Tires Are Issued by Board Last Friday

A marked reduction has been made in the number of truck tires allotted this county for the current month but the number of Grade I tires for cars and pickup trucks was materially increased. A study of the quotas seems to indicate that the synthetic rubber is being made available for car tires, but that efforts are being made to safeguard the supply of natural rubber which is used in greater proportions in the manufacture of truck tires.

The county has been allotted 106 Grade I tires for the current month as compared with 88 in December. The quota also allows the distribution of 144 Grade III tires and 126 car tire tubes, 35 truck tires and 37 truck tire tubes. The county had 46 truck tires last month.

A total of 79 tires was rationed by the board at its regular meeting last Friday night, as follows:

- Truck tires and tubes: Martin County Transfer Co., Robersonville, 7 tires and 4 tubes. Williamston Supply Co., 2 tires and two tubes. Royal Baking Co., Raleigh, 1 tire and 1 tube. Kader Lilley, Williamston, 2 tires and 2 tubes. Harry G. Jones, Williamston, 1 tube. Harrison Oil Co., Williamston, 1 tire and 1 tube. Tilmon Coltraine, Williamston, 2 tubes. Automobile Grade I tires and tubes: Grace Whitley Maynard, Williamston, 1 tire and 1 tube.

(Continued on page six)

NO HOLIDAY

Borrowing about 1,200 gallons of gasoline from a neighbor, authorities forestalled an interruption of the school schedule in this county yesterday. It was considered quite likely last Tuesday that the schools would be forced to close Thursday because the supply of gasoline for operating the buses was just about exhausted. The delivery was made just in time to prevent an interruption.

The approximately 1,200 gallons will make possible the operation of the buses for about five days. Officials could not be reached for a statement today, but it is believed additional deliveries will come through to guarantee continued operations.

Fifty-eight Liquor Plants Captured by Officers Last Year

Sugar Rationing and Shortage of Copper Offer Operators a Big Problem

Experiencing sugar rationing and material shortages and with the ever-watchful eyes of the Enforcement Bureau on them, illicit liquor manufacturers are leading a hectic life in Martin County these days. In fact, the business despite the incentive offered by rationing of the legal brands has been deserted by old-time manufacturers for the most part and the traffic is now believed well under control.

Those manufacturers who persist in their efforts have about whipped the sugar shortage by substituting molasses, and in some cases by entering the black market for sugar. Black market business is costly, but the illicit liquor prices have soared, some reports stating that it has sold for as much as \$24 a gallon. Copper kettles have just about disappeared, but gasoline and oil drums have been substituted, quite a few farmers explaining that their hog swill barrels "walked" away over night. But while the manufacturers were "beating" sugar rationing and material shortages, they have discovered no iron-clad way of beating the enforcement bureau officers to the draw. J. H. Roebuck, serving as deputy sheriff and head of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Enforcement Bureau,

with the aid of Deputy Roy Peal, made life miserable for the traffickers last year. It is believed that the manufacturer and bootlegger, confronted by these main obstacles, came nearer going out of business than in any other period in many years. With an effective enforcement being carried relentlessly on and with rationing of legal brands in effect, it is certain that many people in this section possibly came nearer recognizing the meaning of prohibition than they did even back in prohibition days.

During last year, Officer J. H. Roebuck, aided mainly by Deputy Roy Peal, wrecked fifty-eight liquor plants as compared with seventy-one wrecked in 1942. Valued at about \$25 each, the plants represented an investment of about \$1,450. The officers.

(Continued on page six)

Patrolman Detains Four Virginia Boys

Four Virginia youths, their ages ranging from 14 to 17 years, were detained by Patrolman W. E. Saunders here yesterday when they became stranded and could not get gasoline to continue their planned trip to Florida.

Driving his mother's old 1937 model Plymouth, John Robert Graybill, of Alexandria, Va., started south last Tuesday morning with his young companions, Jack Sutherland, Richard Hansbrough and John McDougall. They were in no hurry and yesterday morning at 9 o'clock they had just reached the Martin County Rationing Board office. Sheriff Roebuck was in the office at the time and when no one could help young Graybill, the sheriff suggested that State Trooper Saunders could lend a helping hand. After hearing the story, the trooper borrowed the car keys and notified the Virginia police. An urgent plea soon came, the parents urging the officers to hold the lads until they could come for them. Friends replenished the group treasury and the lads saw the show and spent the night in the hotel, but Graybill did not forget to point out to the sheriff that he certainly helped them out when the trooper was called in.

LISTING PROPERTY

The listing of property for general taxation is progressing fairly rapidly in those townships where the work was scheduled this week, according to a report coming from County Tax Supervisor C. D. Carstarphen today.

Well over 160 owners had listed their properties in this township during the first three days, leaving about 1,700 to list in the district during the next three weeks.

For about the first time in taxation history, farmers in the county are listing fertilizers on hand in quite a few cases. The fertilizers are being listed at two-thirds of their cost value.

Second Anniversary Observed In County By Rationing Board

Herbert L. Roebuck Speaks to Host Club at Meeting Last Evening

By JOHN L. GOFF

The Williamston Kiwanis Club invited as its guests of honor last evening the members of Martin County's War Price and Rationing Board. Mr. Herbert Roebuck was the only member who was able to be present. When presented to the club Mr. Roebuck was asked to make some remarks about the function of the county board. The set-up from the beginning was given by the speaker. Showing how from a tire and rationing board they became price administrators for all commodities placed under price control. It was shown that through its efficient and effective work the Martin County board was rated one of three of the best in the State. The work of the board is now divided so that the original board consisting of three members, Mr. C. C. Martin, chairman, Mr. Herbert Roebuck and Mr. J. A. Everett, serve as a reviewing board. Reviewing all applications sent up by the oil, gas, tire, farm machinery and commodity panels, these are passed on without fear or favor.

Mr. Roebuck paid high tribute to Mr. Martin, the chairman, as well as to the faithfulness of the members of the several panels. The speaker's remarks were well received by the large attendance of Kiwanians.

The celebration of the second anniversary of this board's service brings to mind that had it not been for its splendid service our county would have been in the grip of an inflation that might have throttled our great war effort and defeated the cause of democracy. May we not only wish for the board a continuation of its high service, but a growing appreciation for its worth by the citizens of our county and country.

In a congratulatory message to the board members, W. Hance Hoffer,

(Continued on page six)

Little Theft Ring Broken In County

A series of small-scale thefts, believed to have been committed by a small ring, were partly if not completely cleared up this week with the arrests of three young white men, Cecil Williams, Ernest Tilghman and Joe Mobley. The charges will be aired in the county court before Judge J. C. Smith next Monday.

The three are indicted for the theft of ten bags of soybeans from Farmer Roy Taylor's tobacco barn shelter on the night of December 17, six bags of peanuts from Augustus Williams, three bags of peanuts from Bud Williams, father of Cecil, in Robersonville Township, and five bags of peanuts from Elijah Spruill, also in Robersonville Township.

Williams and Tilghman have admitted the thefts and they involve Mobley who denies any connection with the alleged crimes. The soybeans were sold in Plymouth and it is understood that the sale of the peanuts has been traced.

It had not been admitted by them, but Sheriff C. B. Roebuck who has worked steadily on the case for several weeks, believes the boys know something about the theft of sixteen bags of peanuts from Agriculturist Bill Peal on the Joe Lilley farm, and fourteen bags from Farmer Ellis Malone in Bear Grass Township. The Peal peanuts were stolen from a shelter on the farm, and the others were stolen before Farmer Malone could get them out of the field back in November.

MORE CHECKS

More checks, issued under the 1943 soil conservation program, were delivered this week to Martin County farmers, boosting the total to \$32,284.52. The amount, issued to 820 farmers, represents 487 farm contracts.

Not quite one-third of the contracts have been serviced, and if the same ratio is maintained for the remaining one, it is now believed the total payments will approximate \$100,000.

Local Rainfall Continues At Point Slightly Below Normal

After reaching the lowest point—31.76 inches in 1941—on record, the annual rainfall for this section continued to reflect an upward trend last year, but even then the total for the year is almost six inches below the 10-year average and possibly eight to ten inches below normal.

The years of 1940-1942, inclusive, are remembered as dry periods in this section. In 1939, there were 55.48 inches of rainfall recorded on Roanoke River at this point. The total dropped to 37.89 inches in 1940 and to 31.76 inches in 1941. The loss of 17.59 inches from 1939 to 1940 was followed by an additional drop of 6.13 inches in 1941, or a total decrease of 23.72 inches in two years. A slight gain was recorded in 1942 when the total rainfall amounted to 38.65 inches. In 1943, 40.23 inches of rain fell here, and while the increase of 1.58 inches over the total for 1942 is

small, it reflects an upward trend in the annual precipitation.

While at least one inch—or .99 of an inch, to be exact—was recorded during each month in 1943, the rainfall record for the year is spotted. In March of last year, 4.58 inches were recorded, the rainfall reaching a high figure of 8.40 inches in July. The monthly fall began tapering off sharply from that point until last month when 3.95 inches were recorded, but despite the unusually heavy rains in July, the total for the year was about six inches below the 10-year average.

The current year has started off on the wet side, Hugh Spruill, who makes the recordings, stating today that more rain has already fallen this month than in either January, 1941 and 1942, and half as much as the amount recorded in January of last year.

More Martin County Men Called By Army

Last Colored Call Is Answered Entirely By Single Draftees

Most of the Men Leaving This Week Were Taken from Industrial Jobs

Answering the smallest draft call received in this county in many months, eleven colored draftees left a few days ago for an Army induction center. No official report has been received, but it is understood that only a few of the group were accepted. It will be three weeks or more before an official "audit" on the men will be made available. No official report has been received from the draft call answered by a large number of county colored men the middle of last month, but it is expected within the next day or two.

The current call was answered entirely by single men, and most of them were taken from industrial jobs in and around Norfolk. Several of the men had been to camp previously and were rejected. Some others had 4-F ratings until just a short time ago.

Names and addresses of the men answering the current month call follow:

- James Mayo, Williamston.
- George Woolard, RFD 1, Williamston and Norfolk.
- Grandy Pemberton, Everetts and Portsmouth.
- Charles Delmas Wooten, Williamston. Wooten was transferred to the Martin County Board by the one in Guilford County.
- Aaron Duffin Andrews, Phoebus, Va., and Parnele.
- Earl Webbs Williams, RFD 1, Williamston and Norfolk.
- Lewis Coffield, Robersonville and Norfolk.
- Allen Coffield, RFD 1, Robersonville and Norfolk.
- Joseph Nichols, RFD 1, Williamston and Edenton.
- James Spruill, RFD 1, Robersonville and Norfolk.
- William Taylor, Hamilton and New Bern.

A call for white registrants slightly larger than the one received by the colored draftees is to be answered on or about the 25th of this month. The white call is expected to take several married men with children. No February calls have been received in this county, but they are expected to be larger.

Kiwanians Install New Officers Here

The first meeting of the new year by the Williamston Kiwanis Club was featured by the installation of the new officers. Lieut. Gov. Hugh G. Horton, of the Sixth District, had charge of the installation service.

David R. Davis was installed as president; Walter T. Martin as vice president; James C. Eubanks as secretary and treasurer. Lieut. Gov. Horton in his charge to the incoming officers, stated that theirs was an obligation of service to the community in an hour when the community had many and serious demands made upon it. That the success of the club depended upon the manner in which the club met these demands.

The retiring officers were: Rev. John L. Goff, president; Herman A. Bowen, vice president, and James C. Eubanks, secretary and treasurer. President Davis then gave to each member a copy of the committee appointments for the new year. The board of directors for the coming year are: Marvin Britton, Bill Carstarphen, David Hix, Hugh Horton, Wheeler Martin, Jodie Woolard, Bruce Wynne and John Goff.

Music was furnished during the supper by Mrs. Gower Crosswell.—Reported.

NEARLY COMPLETE

The review of farm registrants' production records in this county in all probability will be completed when the War and Draft Boards meet in a joint session here this evening.

According to an unofficial report, possibly one hundred farmers will lose their "C" classifications, meaning they'll be made subject to the draft within the near future.

During the meantime, draft authorities in several industrial areas, mainly in Norfolk, are reviewing the cases of those registrants who were deferred in this county on account of work in vital war industries.

County Bookmobile Will Make Regular Schedule Next Week

New Books Have Been Added To Collection by Library Association

The activities of the holiday season are over and the bookmobile returns with many intriguing titles to begin the New Year. Again there are three favorite authors among the fiction. Gwen Bristow's new book, Tomorrow Is Forever, finds its modern setting in California—another story beginning in the last war and continuing through the war with Herbie. Received one of those telegrams from the War Department during the first war. Years afterward she found herself again in a happy home and imagine her reaction when she came face-to-face with her first husband.

Mrs. Keyes has used another familiar background for her story, Also The Hills. Here one meets the three "young farmers" who try to find their places in the world today. Their careers and romances find their way into the swift moving plot.

A Tower Of Steel by Josephine Lawrence portrays the lives of average, ordinary people. Four women at work in wartime have their own problems to solve and their men in service to add to their anxiety.

Victoria Grandolet by Bellamann, the author of King's Row, promises to be another Rebecca. The setting is similar and the mysterious tragedy is there. Or is it a tragedy? Why does Victoria have a struggle to find her position secure as mistress of White Cloud?

Those two "impossible" girls are at it again. Yes, the authors of Our Hearts Were Young And Gay are back in print together. This time We Followed Our Hearts To Hollywood finds Cornelia Otis Skinner and Emily Kimbrough in California writing the screen play for their first book. It is a good one to go with all the war stories and is not recommended.

(Continued on page six)

DELINQUENT

While a goodly number of draft registrants have been a bit careless in advising the draft board of any changes in address, comparatively few in this county have been listed as delinquent. At the present time seven registrants are listed as delinquent in this county. Most of them were reported to the United States Attorney during the past few weeks.

Their names and last known addresses are: Kelly Purvis and Arlander Page, Robersonville; Tom Council, RFD 1, Bethel; Joseph Lawrence Portsmouth; James Gardner, Jamesville; Andrew Lioyd, Williamston; Robert Charlie Hyman, RFD 1, Palmyra. All of the men are colored.

Initial Session Of County Court This Year Is Short One

Judge J. C. Smith Clears the Docket in Less Than Two Hours Monday

Opening the Martin County Recorder's court for the first time this year, Judge J. Calvin Smith last Monday cleared the docket and adjourned the tribunal in less than two hours. There were only thirteen cases on the docket and when it is considered that no session had been held in two weeks, the number can be rated as unusually small. Very few spectators were present for the first session of the court this year, and little interest was shown in the proceedings. Several cases were continued for the defendants until next Monday and two defendants failed to appear when called in open court.

Proceeding: The court recognized a reconciliation in the case charging Hubert L. Everett with non-support and judgment was suspended.

Pleading guilty in the case charging him with speeding, Sam Carrick was fined \$10 and taxed with the costs.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the cost in the case charging Fred Webster Moretz with speeding. The defendant pleaded guilty to the charge.

Charlie Whitaker, colored, was fined \$50 and had his license revoked for one year, and was taxed with the court costs in the case charging him with drunken driving.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the cost and on the further condition that the defendant meet certain health requirements in the case charging Frank Smith with violating the health laws.

Adjudged guilty over his own plea of innocence, Elmer "Tank" Bennett was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs in the case charging him with larceny.

The case charging Robert Edwards with hit-and-run driving was continued until next Monday.

In the case charging Rufus Whitehead with non-support, the court suspended judgment when it appeared that an allotment had already been made to the defendant's child.

A continuance until next Monday was granted in the case charging G. H. Manning with issuing a worthless check.

Pleading guilty in the case charging him with drunken driving, Guy Powell was fined \$50, taxed with the costs and had his license revoked for one year.

In the case charging Simon Sheppard and Ben Biggs with an assault, a continuance was ordered when the defendant, Sheppard, failed to appear. Papers were issued by the court calling for his arrest.

Pleading guilty in the case charging him with operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license and with speeding, Leon Sykes was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs.

When the defendant, Jas. Blount, failed to pay a fine and court costs in the case charging him with larceny, the court invoked a sentence requiring him to serve four months on the roads.

Sale Of Christmas Seals Sets Record

The sale of Christmas seals in this area reached an all-time high figure during the holiday season, according to an incomplete report filed this week by Mrs. Ben D. Courtney, seal sale chairman.

With one or two districts yet to report, Mrs. Courtney said that a total of \$461.07 had already been turned in, the amount exceeding the quota by \$161.07. Reports were filed by several schools in the area, as follows: Everetts, \$22.05; Williamston High School, \$25.00; Williamston Grammar School, \$31.88; Bear Grass, \$36.20; Jamesville, \$43.00; and Farm Life, \$47.23.

One-fourth of the amount raised will be turned over to the North Carolina Tuberculosis Association, and the remainder will be used in Martin County in the fight against tuberculosis, principally in the county sanatorium.

Hearing Monday For Driver Of Death Car

James Garland Rogers, young Bear Grass white man, will be given a formal hearing before Justice J. L. Hassell here next Monday evening at 8 o'clock in connection with the death of Herbert Harrison as a result of an automobile accident on the Washington Highway near Williamston last Sunday.

As far as it could be learned today, no charges had been brought against the driver of the death car, but he will automatically face a manslaughter charge.

Mrs. W. R. Burrell Continues Quite Ill In Local Hospital

Confined to the local hospital with an attack of influenza and complications, Mrs. W. R. Burrell was reported some brighter this morning. It was stated, however, that she continues quite ill.