



# THE ENTERPRISE



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## Thirty County Men Pass Pre-Induction Exam at Fort Bragg

### Unfounded Rumors Had All But Four of Big Group

Out of approximately eighty-one Martin County white men reporting to Fort Bragg last week-end for pre-induction examinations, at least thirty were accepted, twenty-nine outright and one for limited service, according to fairly reliable but admittedly unofficial information brought back by members of the contingent. Several men were detained for further examination, and while some of them have been heard from the outcome of the examinations for a few others is yet to be learned. No official information about the group can be had until the authorities file with the local draft board an official "audit", and that is not to be expected within the next ten days or two weeks.

According to reports, gathered mainly from the draftees themselves, fifteen men were accepted by the Army, fourteen by the Army and one by the Marine Corps. It is understood that 46 were rejected. Of the approximately ten men detained for further examination, several had not been heard from early today. It is understood that a few failed to report but their names could not be learned immediately.

Asa J. Manning, local boy, was accepted for limited military service despite a physical defect caused by a hand injury several years ago. Rumors heard here last Saturday stating that all but two, four, six or seven of the group making the trip had been accepted for service were later declared unfounded. The source of the reports could not be definitely determined for nearly every one heard a different one.

Unofficially the following men were accepted by the Army: Pete Ellic Cherry, Williamston. Ben Long Stevenson, RFD 2, Robersonville.

John Clayton Davenport, Robersonville. Henry Stancill Manning, Williamston. (Continued on page six)

## Prisoners of War Enjoy Stage Show

The several hundred Italian prisoners of war stationed in the camp here had a touch of old Italy brought to them last Sunday afternoon when an all-Italian cast staged a varied entertainment program in the high school auditorium. Picked from war prisoners stationed at Camp Butler, the troupe was well received and the program was greatly enjoyed.

The cast embraced several real artists, who, it is believed, could well qualify for prominent roles on the legitimate stage. Certain program parts almost brought tears to the eyes of some, while other parts energized followed the show.

Special guests, while unable to follow the announcer and interpret the parts, were impressed and enjoyed the solos and special numbers by the eight-piece band. Colonel Alexander brought the special detail here from the camp near Durham.

## County Colored Men Are Called By Army

Ten colored men left today for Fort Bragg for induction, the call almost exhausting the colored manpower reserve pool, built up in January and February for the draft. The names of the men reporting are: LeRoy Smith, Williamston. Hermon Johnson, Williamston. Lenwood Willie Rhodes, RFD 1, Jamesville. Leavestor Peter Taylor, RFD 1, Robersonville. Willie Williams, Williamston. John Douglas Lyons, RFD 1, Williamston and Edenton. Roosevelt Scott, Williamston. William Clarence Bunche, Williamston and New York. Thaddeus Newsom, III, RFD 3, Williamston. Richard Clinton Davis, Oak City. Four of the group are fathers and leave behind seven children. Four of the group had been ruled non-essential by the County War Board, and four of the group had been previously rejected by the Army.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday afternoon at the Piney Grove Baptist Church in Griffins Township for Robert Tetterton, four months old, who died at the home of his parents in Plymouth last Saturday evening at 8 o'clock. Burial was in the Tice Community Cemetery. Rev. W. B. Harrington conducted the last rites.

He was the son of Atwood and Jamie Roberson Tetterton. Besides his parents, he is survived by a sister, Margaret Ann Tetterton.

## Farmers Plan To Use Prisoner of War Labor

### County Farmers In Meeting with Army Officers Last Week

Several hundred Martin County school girls and boys submitted papers in the North Carolina Pulp Company pulpwood essay contest before the deadline last Friday night. The papers have been placed in the hands of the company's contest committee who will judge the papers and announce the winners.

Contestants in this county have a chance to win four prizes. They are competing on a district basis for a \$25 war bond to be given by the company, and on a county-wide basis for three prizes with a total value of \$7.50. Offered by the Enterprise Publishing Co., the prizes will be awarded \$3 to the first, \$2.50 to the second and \$2.00 to the third winner within the county.

The plan has possibilities and while it hardly can be expected to remedy the situation caused by the farm labor shortage, officials are of the sincere belief that much can be accomplished by using the war prisoners and cooperating with the program advanced by the War Department in handling war prisoners.

Briefly explaining the need for making plans ahead of time, County Agent T. B. Brandon turned the meeting over to Lt. Vincent A. Vehar who was born and reared on a ranch and who appreciates the problem now facing Martin County farmers and others in this section.

The officer briefly explained rules and regulations governing the employment of prisoners of war. "The regulations may not exactly fit every situation, but we must remember the Geneva Conference, that the same rules and regulations are applicable to American prisoners of war in other countries."

Lt. Vehar stated that the men were not supposed to work but eight hours a day, that ordinarily the men would be made available in groups of ten or more, and that the employer is to furnish transportation. Dinner is furnished for the war prisoners by the Army and transportation must be safe and offer protection against the weather. It was pointed out that the prisoners may be used for any type of farm labor, but they are not to handle dangerous details. Lt. Vehar explained that it would hardly conform to the rules to allow a prisoner to feed a circular wood saw.

Farmers explained that the prisoners could be used to an advantage in sundering tobacco, stacking peanuts, cutting wood, and quite a few farmers believe they can be used successfully in harvesting tobacco. Col. Pritchard, supervisor of the camps, appeared before the meeting and explained that no wage had been fixed, that he was of the opinion that a uniform rate should be adopted and that the rate should be fair to the farmer and to the government. However, he pointed out that the farmer could hardly be expected to compete with industrial wage scales. The colonel called for expressions of opinion from the farmers and a vote was taken.

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## Review Valuations At Meeting Monday

Meeting as a Board of Equalization and Review, the Martin County Commissioners remained in session Monday for property owners to advance their claims. Only five changes in values were effected, and they were minor ones. The 1,226 acres of swamp land listed by T. B. Slade in Hamilton Township was reduced from \$6 to \$3 an acre, the owner explaining that timber had been removed from the land. Advancing a claim for a reduction in acreage listings on the 146 acres of his old residence tract, W. P. Hadley of Bear Grass was allowed a reduction of from \$8 to \$6 on 20 acres and a reduction of from \$20 to \$6 on 106 acres. The owner pointed out that the timber had been cut on the land.

The valuation of 200 acres of woodland listed by A. S. Roberson in Hamilton Township was reduced from \$12 to \$6 an acre, the timber having been removed. The valuation on a residence owned by R. L. Perry was increased from \$550 to \$800 to cover improvements. An increase of \$2,500 was added to the \$5,000 valuation placed on Brown's Community Hospital to cover improvements made to the plant.

Former local woman is badly injured in fall. Mrs. Harry Clinton James, the former Miss Nina Upton of Williamston, was badly hurt in a fall at her home in Roanoke, Va., last Friday. Reports reaching here stated she was almost paralyzed, but that her condition was gradually improving and yesterday she had use of most of her faculties.

County Girl Stationed in Navy at New York. Miss Thelma E. Haislip, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Haislip, of Martin County, is now stationed in the Navy at New York, it was learned here this week. Volunteering a short time ago, Miss Haislip is believed to be among the first of the first Martin County young woman to join the WAVES.

Soil conservation payments to Martin County farmers cooperating with the Triple A program went over the \$100,000 mark last week-end when 490 checks representing 201 applications and amounting to \$17,493.19 were distributed to the owners. To date, 3,114 checks amounting to \$113,240.80 and representing 1,364 applications have been distributed to farmers in this county under the 1943 conservation program. There are approximately 250 applications pending, and in about 75 other cases the farmers have yet to file their claims for payment, it was stated by Miss Mary Carstarphen in the farm agent's office yesterday.

## Inmate Found Dead In Martin County's Jail Early Sunday

### Funeral Services Are Being Held in Everetts Today

Robert Stalls, county farmer of near Everetts, was found dead in the Martin County jail early Sunday morning, apparently the victim of an acute heart attack or apoplexy. When the man's body was found by Jailor Roy Peel, Coroner S. R. Biggs was called and he had a physician to make an examination. According to his findings, it is believed that the inmate died of a stroke. However, it is possible he died of a heart attack or even of some other ailment. It was definitely determined that the man had not met with foul play in any way.

An unusual character, Mr. Stalls left home Saturday morning and after a year's abstinence he broke over and imbibed too freely of some kind of liquor. He wandered in and out of several local places of business and finally made it to the bus station where he fell. Police were called and with their help he was able to walk to the car and make it to jail. He wasn't mad with a soul in the world and seemed to be extremely happy, according to Chas. Moore and John Gurganus, the arresting officers. He was put to bed and a pillow was placed under his head and by the time they had closed the door he was sleeping. Jailor Roy Peel passed in the hall several times later in the evening and could have heard him call any time during the night, but the man apparently passed away in his sleep and without making any noise.

Coroner S. R. Biggs believed the man died about or shortly before midnight. When he was carried to jail, Stalls had an empty Overholt bottle on his person, the fluid having leaked out on his clothes and it is possible that the bottle had been used by bootleggers as a container for illicit brands. He had two packages of headache powders on his person also.

When making the arrest, officers asked Stalls if he knew any one who would take him home. He said he had not been drunk in over a year, that he was ashamed of himself and (Continued on page six)

## Man Is Jailed Here For Attempted Rape

Alonza Hardison, colored man, was ordered held in default of \$500 bond here yesterday afternoon when he was given a hearing before Justice J. L. Hassell in the case charging him with attempted rape. Mrs. Robert Lee Dale, seventeen-year-old mother and a recent comer to this county, stated that Hardison came to her home shortly before noon Sunday while her husband was away. She claimed that the defendant attempted to rape her. (Continued on page six)

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## Firemen Answer Two Calls Here Saturday

Local firemen answered two calls here last Saturday. The first call came that morning when a chimney blazed out and threatened the Episcopal rectory occupied by the Bob Everetts on Houghton Street. That afternoon a grass fire threatened buildings on the premises of the Mayo Hardisons, until recently the property of the Cunninghams on West Main Street. No damage was done by the fires.

## THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

Despite bad road conditions and rainy weather during much of last week, only one motor accident was reported on the highways of this county last week. No one was hurt, but the record so far this year continues to hold a big marginal lead over the figures for the corresponding period, a year ago. The following tabulations offer a comparison of the accident trend: first, by corresponding weeks in this year and last and for each year to the present time.

16th Week Comparison	Accidents	Inj'd	Killed	Dam'ge
1944	1	0	0	\$ 75
1943	1	1	0	100
Comparison To Date	1944	13	4	1 2775
	1943	7	4	2 950

## Some Single Men In Deferred Groups Almost Certain To Get Pre-Induction Call Next Month

### No Pre-induction or Induction Calls Received In This County

According to official information gained here late yesterday no pre-induction or final induction calls are now pending in this county, but it is quite likely that a pre-induction call for colored men will come very shortly, and that instructions are to be expected ordering a few white men to report for final induction. The last call of any kind to be received in this county was answered this morning when ten colored men were drawn from the draft pool.

At the present time there are twenty-one white men in the draft pool, seven of them being subject to call by the Navy and fourteen by the Army. Approximately thirty more white men will be placed in the white pool within the next two or three weeks or just as soon as the papers are cleared for those men who were accepted at the Army center last week-end.

While it is not likely, it is possible that some of the white men passing examinations last week-end will not be called for final induction any time soon. It would appear that the white fathers called for pre-induction exams in February and last week-end were trapped, literally speaking, between an exhausted draft list and the thawing out of the 18 to 26 age group of single men and non-fathers. It is fairly certain that the next pre-induction call for whites will be answered by the 18 to 26 age group. If their call comes reasonably early and the pool reserve is not exhausted before they are placed in it, they are expected to take their turns ahead of the father group. But will the calls come in time to save all the fathers? That's the question.

During the meantime, a call for men from the white pool is expected momentarily from the Navy.

## Report Nearly \$4,000 For Red Cross To Date

### Bear Grass Is Just \$10 Short of Quota; \$3,309 Raised Here

Weather and Roads Delay Red Cross War Fund Drive In Others. Two of the five townships in the Martin County Red Cross Chapter were said to be nearing their quotas last night, Fund Drive Chairman V. J. Spivey expressing the firm belief that Bear Grass would pass the goal today and that Williamston would be over the top very shortly. Unfavorable weather and bad roads have delayed the drive in Jamesville, Williams and Griffins Townships, but the outlook is encouraging in each of those districts and there is no doubt but what the quota will be reached and passed in every section of the chapter. No report has been submitted by the leaders of the drive among the colored population, but no quarter is being asked there and the \$800 subscription (Continued on page six)

## Russians Threaten German Positions In Black Sea Area

American Turn Back Mass Suicide Attack by Japs On Bougainville. Starting a sweeping drive, a force of 75,000 Japanese soldiers and 10,000 planes are now threatening the positions of the Germans on the Black Sea and promise to make possible new and far-reaching developments in the Balkan area. The Russians are aiming at Czechoslovakia where the underground is believed to be making ready to burst into overt action against the Nazis. The Black Sea port of Kherson has been captured and today the Russians are driving toward the great Black Sea port of Odessa. The Germans are said to be fleeing in wild disorder before Stalin's troops, late reports stating that the Nazis are quitting that territory in such a hurry that they are leaving behind fire, artillery and flame-throwers. A Odessa, the Germans are making available every boat possible in an effort to save the remnants of their armies.

An estimated 75,000 Germans have been knocked out in that area, one report maintaining that most of them had been killed. Over in the Pacific, a Jap attack on American positions on Bougainville Island was turned into a mass suicide pact by the defenders. At least 4,000 Japs tried to storm the beaches under the cover of shell fire, but they were driven back after a good thousand had been killed. They met concentrated machine gun (Continued on page six)

Contributions made in Williams-ton and not previously reported are as follows: Clyde Ward, \$1.00; Maude Mizelle, \$1; Gladys Martin, 50 cents; R. C. Martin, 50 cents; Virginia Simpson, 50 cents; Martha Ward, \$1; Ruth Wheeler, \$1; Sabe Speight, \$5; J. F. Weaver, \$2; Ethel Willard, \$2.50; E. H. Willard, \$2.50; Bertha Rodgerson, \$1; G. P. Hughes, \$1; Bernice Williams, 50 cents; Lula Gardner, 25 cents; Minnie Bowen, \$1; Elva Williams, 50 cents; W. H. Williams, Jr., 50 cents; Ethelne Hines, 25 cents; Carrie Williams, \$1; Ova J. Burras, \$1; Willa Edmondson, \$1; Daisy Purvis, \$1; Sylvia Clary, 50 cents; Bobbie Ray Bailey, 24 cents; Ova Dallas Whitaker, 24 cents; Edith Harrison, 80 cents; Myrtle Speller, \$1; Alice Dunning, \$10; Annie Laurie Lewis, \$1; Betsy Jarrell, \$1; Sylvia L. Margolis, \$3; Susie Clerk, \$1; Emma Vaughan, \$1; Alma Gray, 50 cents; Cetic Wynne, 50 cents; Nannie Carter, 50 cents; Mary Godwin, \$1; Arlene Harrison, \$2; Bonnie Bell Jackson, \$1.25; Dulah Pate, \$1; Frankie Brown, \$1; Victor, Jr., and Carlyle Brown, 25 cents; Kathleen P. Sherman, \$10; E. L. Sherman, \$10; Minnie M. Price, \$1; J. T. Price, \$1; Ann Wilson Price, 50 cents; Annie Roebuck, \$1; Jennie Stinnette, 25 cents; W. T. Stinnette, 25 cents; Nettie M. Cowen, \$2.50; (Continued on page six)

## County Young Man Jumps from Bomber

Edgar M. Taylor, young Martin County man reported missing over Germany on February 22, parachuted from a big bomber apparently to safety, according to information contained in a letter received by his mother, Mrs. Monroe Taylor, from Young Taylor's friend, a private by the name of Shirley. Riding in a plane near the one in which Taylor was a member of the crew, Pvt. Shirley stated in his letter to Mrs. Taylor that the Taylor plane had two of its motors shot out, and that eight of the crew bailed out. It is possible that the pilot and copilot escaped later. Pvt. Shirley stated that he saw the eight chutes open and the men float to safety. The big bombers were going in over their target when the Taylor plane was hit.

Pvt. Shirley is from Harrodsburg, Ky., and is expected to return home soon on a furlough, it was stated.

## Respected Colored Man Dies at His Home Here

John Clemons, respected colored citizen and an able craftsman, died at his home here last Friday morning at 12:50 o'clock. He had been ill for about nine months. Funeral services were conducted at the Sand Point Primitive Baptist Church here Sunday afternoon by Elders John Charles Oscar Little and Joe Knight. Burial was in the Odd Fellows Cemetery here. Besides his wife and one daughter, he leaves three brothers, Roscoe, Bithe and George Clemons.

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