



# THE ENTERPRISE



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Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Friday, March 31, 1944.

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## Court Clears Fifty Cases From Docket During Recent Term

### Seven Divorces Are Granted; Thirty Other Cases Are Handled This Week

Although it was in session lastly three and one-half days during a scheduled two-weeks' term, the Martin County Superior Court cleared ten criminal cases from the docket on Monday of last week and handled thirty civil petitions from Monday up until shortly before noon on Wednesday of this week. At that time, the court under the direction of Judge C. E. Thompson of Elizabeth City, folded its tent to make way for Judge J. Calvin Smith and his court next Monday.

The civil cases attracted very little attention this week, but two story tellers on the jury were said to have kept their fellowmen smiling and the barristers awake.

Seven divorces, all based on two years of separation, were granted, most of them going to colored plaintiffs.

Proceedings not previously reported follow:

Divorces were granted to: William Lawrence Tyner against Emma Eliza Tyner; Mabel Lee Speller against William C. Speller; C. S. Vanlandingham against Emily D. Vanlandingham; Mary Douglas against Fred Douglas; Madelle Belle Cooke against Johnnie Cooke; Willie Williams against Odelle Ryan Williams.

A survey was ordered in the case of William Little against William Riddick involving a boundary line dispute.

In the case of Selma Fleming against L. B. Fleming, the court confirmed the report filed by the commission for partitioning certain property.

A survey of certain property was ordered in the case brought by Noah Roberson against Joe Johnson.

In the case brought by Fannie M. Peel, guardian of Sallie Jane Leggett, against Stanley Ayers and others, a settlement was reached by agreement, the plaintiff to receive \$150 and the defendant to pay the cost.

A judgment in the sum of \$172.87 plus interest from March 28, 1944, was awarded Lennie Manning in her case to recover damages done to her automobile by the defendant, J. C. Ruffin, Jr.

Clarence Williams was awarded a judgment in the sum of \$103.00 in his case against P. T. Edmondson.

James Gray recovered nothing and was taxed with the cost in his case against C. C. Fleming.

The case of Joseph Keys against Robert Boston was settled by agreement, the plaintiff recovering \$65. The defendant was taxed with the costs.

An agreement was also reached in the case of Howard Hoard and his next friend, Clarence Griffin, against J. H. Chesson, the plaintiff recovering \$89.52.

In the case of Hattie Ruffin against (Continued on page six)

## Record Rainfall Is Reported Here During Month of March

The 6.78 inches of rain falling in this area during the month of March are believed to have established a record, or, at least, the fall was the greatest for any March since 1930 when the first recordings were officially kept. The rains were so numerous — eighteen, including two traces — and the precipitation so great that all talk of dry spells bogged down in the soggy soil and overflowing wells, swamps and streams. Earlier, it was reported by at least one farmer, the wells were actually overflowing the curbing one or two inches above the ground. The largest fall, 2.07 inches, was recorded on March 19th.

There were some pretty days and the weather was ideal at times, but since Mr. Groundhog predicted bad weather back in February, rain fell on 32 of the forty-nine days. The wet weather has just about

blocked fishing operations on the Roanoke and interrupted the farming schedule in this entire section.

The 14th of March, is almost certain to remain at or near that level for another week or ten days. A late report states that the stream will reach 31 feet in Weldon tomorrow, but that is not expected to materially affect the river at this point. Ordinarily, seine fishing is well underway at Jamesville at this time of the year, but it will possibly be another week before operations are started.

Hardly more than one-third and certainly not more than half the Irish potato crop has been planted in this area, and according to some reports many of the seed planted back in February have rotted in the ground. A few farmers have plowed the high spots, but the farm work is considerably behind schedule.

## Fifty-two Tires Are Allotted in County By Rationing Board

### Application for Second-hand Approved

The Martin County War Price and Rationing Board last Friday evening allotted fifty-three tires—nineteen Grade I's, twenty-eight Grade II's and six for trucks—to vehicle owners and operators. An application filed by Edward S. Dixon for the purchase of a 1912 used car was approved.

Grade I tires for cars and pick-up trucks were issued to the following: Elmer R. Edmondson, RFD 1, Bethel, one tire and one tube. N. T. Tice, RFD 1, Williamston, one tire.

H. B. Griffin, RFD 1, Williamston, one tire. R. D. Purvis, RFD 1, Bethel, one tire.

Arthur Revels, RFD 1, Williamston, one tire.

Eva P. Jones, Parmele, one tire.

Vernon Davis, Jamesville, one tire.

George M. Peel, Williamston, two tires and one tube.

D. Andrew Griffin, RFD 1, Williamston, one tire and one tube.

Claudius Hardison, RFD 1, Williamston, one tire and one tube.

Clelle Moore, Robersonville, one tire and one tube.

J. C. Martin, Williamston, three tires.

H. L. Roebuck, Robersonville, two tires and one tube.

J. R. Coltrain, RFD 1, Williamston, one tire.

W. B. Harrington, RFD 1, Williamston, one tire and one tube.

Truck tires and tubes were rationed as follows:

Williamston Hardware Co., two tires and two tubes.

Eli Everett, Robersonville, one tire and one tube.

Farmville-Woodward Lumber Co., Williamston, three tires and three tubes.

Grade III tires and tubes were released to the following:

Sgt. C. C. Walters, Jamesville and Fort Bragg, one tire and tube.

Chas. L. Daniel, Jr., Williamston, one tire.

John Mason, RFD 2, Williamston, two tires and two tubes.

Lawrence Williams, Oak City, three tires.

J. H. Holliday, Hamilton, one tire and one tube.

Willie Jones, RFD 1, Robersonville, one tire and one tube.

Mrs. Guy Napier, Jamesville, one tire.

Marion E. Smith, Robersonville, one tire and one tube.

J. O. Steton, Hamilton, one tire.

Columbus Martin, RFD 1, Hobgood, one tire and one tube.

John H. Rogers, RFD 2, Williamston, one tire and one tube.

Roy Beach, Hamilton, one tire and one tube.

Elmer Ray Lilley, Williamston, one tire.

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## Pre-Easter Service Schedule In Watts Theater Announced

The schedule of pre-Easter services that will last but thirty minutes to be held in the Watts Theater and union services in the various churches here next week was announced today by the local ministerial association. The services will be held in the Watts at 10:30 each morning with the following leaders:

Monday, Baptist leader, Tuesday, Christian leader, Wednesday, Episcopal leader, Thursday, Methodist leader, Friday, Presbyterian leader.

Mrs. Marvin Britton and his committee has been asked to visit the merchants of the city and enlist them in cooperating with these morning services.

The schedule for the evening follows:

Monday: Christian Church, Rev. Gower Crosswell, speaker. Tuesday: Methodist Church, Rev. W. R. Barrrell, speaker.

Wednesday: Episcopal Church, speaker to be announced. Thursday: Baptist Church, Rev. John L. Goff, speaker. (Union Commission service to which all Christians are invited.)

Friday: Presbyterian Church, Rev. B. T. Hurley, speaker.

## Red Cross War Fund Materially Boosted Here Since Tuesday

### All Reports Are Announced Colored Population

The annual Red Cross War Fund Drive is being brought to a close in the chapter today, V. J. Spivey, chairman of the campaign to raise \$6,200, announcing late yesterday that a total of \$7,941.91 had been raised and reported. The drive was announced virtually complete at that time for each of the five townships in the chapter except for the colored population. Apparently those citizens have not raised their \$800 quota, a report from the chairman stating that a three-day extension of time for completing the drive had been asked and granted.

A collection of \$207.73, raised at the Watts Theater, materially boosted the fund just recently, and Chairman Spivey now believes the grand total will exceed \$8,000, an amount \$1,800 in excess of the original quota.

	Quota	Amt raised
Jamesville	\$ 600	\$ 692.70
Williams	150	153.57
Griffins	500	549.35
Bear Grass	500	533.85
Williamston	3650	5444.33
Macedonia S. S.		25.00
Colored Citizens	800	243.11
	\$6200	\$7641.91

Names of the contributors continue to come in by the tens of hundreds. The Jamesville list of donors appears elsewhere in this paper. The Griffins list will appear next week, and it will be followed by the names of the Williamston school contributors. Other contributions will be acknowledged soon thereafter.

In reporting Mrs. Sallie Lee's contribution in Bear Grass Township, this paper listed it at 50 cents when it should have been \$5.00. It was just another one of "them" things. The correction is gladly noted.

The Swansland Ladies Aid boosted the total in Griffins Township this week by \$5.00.

Donations not previously acknowledged in Williamston follow: Mrs. Bill Myers, \$1; Margaret Lilley, \$1; Myrtle Jones, \$1; Gaylord Harrison, \$15; Watts Theatre Collection, \$207.73; Ruth and Joe Thrower, \$2.50; Dorothy Godwin, \$1; Mrs. H. F. McKnight, \$1; Mrs. L. T. Carrow, \$1; Hattie E. Edmondson, \$5; Shep Roebuck, \$1; John L. Goff, \$2; Mrs. S. W. Manning, \$1; Mrs. W. E. Old, \$1; Carrie Goddard, \$5; Virginia Everett, \$1; Mrs. Marion Cobb, \$1; Mrs. B. F. Baldrée, \$1; Christine Manning, \$1; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Weston, \$4; Mrs. Otho Willard, \$1; Mrs. Clayton Revels, \$1; Mrs. W. M. Baker, \$1; Mrs. L. Wynne, \$1; Mary Maddux, \$1; Merceil Lindsley, \$1; Ollie B. Bright, \$50; Mrs. A. E. Gurganus, \$1; Mrs. Jeff Mariner, \$5; Mrs. J. H. Allsbrook, 25c.

A report from Roberson, the second chapter in this county, states that slightly more than \$1,700 of its \$1,800 quota had been raised up to Tuesday of this week.

## Registrants 18 To 25, Inclusive, Are To Take Pre-Induction Exams

### Status Of Farmers In Draft Confused By Recent Changes

### Draft Board Has Not Been Officially Notified Of Changes

After receiving written and oral instructions earlier in the week to draw heavily from the list of registrants 18 to 25 years of age, inclusive, draft officials learned unofficially that the production unit system for farmers had been scrapped and that deferments were to be handled in accordance with instructions embodied in the Tydings Amendment. The scrapping of the unit system confuses the draft status of farm registrants eighteen years of age and under twenty-six.

However, it is firmly believed that the news announcing the elimination of the unit system sounds better to the ear than it will actually be when applied.

No official instructions have been received advising the draft boards to scrap the unit system, and while such instructions are to be expected shortly, it is fairly certain that they will be clothed with rules and regulations requiring a heavy draft from those men over eighteen and under twenty-six years of age.

During the meantime, official instructions have been received, directing the draft officials to send all men between 18 and 25 years, inclusive, to the military centers for pre-induction examinations. This group will include, single men, married men and fathers, irrespective of the type of work the registrant is engaged in at the time. Only a few can expect to escape the pre-induction call. The instructions, just received this week, explain that it does not mean that the man making the trip to the service center will automatically lose his deferment if he passes the examination. The pre-induction test will eliminate a certain percentage, and then Selective Service will center its attention on the remaining 60 per cent, or whatever the figure may be.

If a registrant passes the preinduction exam and he holds a vital job in industry, his claim for continued deferment will not be considered by the local draft board, but his case will rest with State Selective Service.

That the scrapping of the production unit system does not mean a continued blanket deferment for farm registrants between the ages of 18 and 25, inclusive, is fairly evident when two recent pronouncements by military and manpower authorities are considered. The military has said that it needed men 18 to 25, inclusive, and must have them. It is also believed that the military will raise the age limit just as soon as the 18-25 age group is exhausted. The other pronouncement that would seem to indicate a dark future for the 18-25 group as far as the draft is concerned was made this week by the manpower commission subject to congressional action, of course. The manpower commission proposed the drafting of all these 4-F's who are not engaged now in vital industry or work or who do not transfer to vital work by a certain time. It is believed by some that the 4-F's, many of whom have been running wild and remaining indifferent to the war effort since their rejection, will either go to work in vital industry or on the farm or be drafted into labor battalions, and that this action will relieve, to some extent, the shortage of labor on those farms where the 18-25 group has been exhausted.

Secretary of War Stimson is opposed to the plan, but the House Military Subcommittee continues to work on a plan to place 4-F's in essential work, including agriculture, or place them in work battalions at Army pay without the benefits enjoyed by the regular serviceman. The committee would make the law applicable to all 4-F's up to 37, if married and up to 45 for non-fathers.

## USO MEETING

Plans for a closer cooperation between local authorities and the national organization for the operation of the local United Services Organization unit here are being discussed at a meeting here this afternoon in the American Legion Hut on Watts Street.

Area Recreation Representative Harry Wellott is meeting with the local committee. A report on the progress of the session could not be had immediately.

It is understood that the local unit hasn't sufficient funds to maintain the center, that its operation may have to be curtailed unless the national organization participates or additional funds are raised locally.

## County Young Man Writes from Italy

Writing recently to a cousin from somewhere in Italy, Pfc. James R. Harrison, Jr., states that he is getting along fine and hopes the home folks are too. The letter follows in part:

"You asked me about these girls over here, but I don't cater to these Italian dames as they are pretty dirty."

"I'll try and remember some of my experiences now but don't let them bore you as they are not any too interesting. On July 10, 1943, at 1:30 a. m. we were woken from our slumbers and told that the time had arrived so we went over the side of the big troop ship into the landing (Continued on page six)

## CANNERS

Preparing for another preserving season, quite a few housewives have delivered their pressure cookers to the home agent's office here to be checked and repaired by a representative of the manufacturers. Already one has been found where the pressure gauge had been improperly handled, making use of the cooker dangerous.

The mechanic or engineer will be here next Tuesday, but the canners must be delivered to the home agent's office not later than 5 o'clock next Monday. No charge will be made for inspecting the cookers and making minor repairs.

On Thursday of next week, a demonstration in the proper care and use of the cookers will be given by the home agent.

## RAF Loses Nearly Hundred Planes in Last Night's Raid

### Turning Point Expected in The Balkans As Russians Plunge Forward

Attacking the important industrial city of Nuremberg, the British Air Force suffered its heaviest single loss of the war last night when ninety-six of its planes were knocked down over Germany. Few details of the raid could be had immediately, but one report stated that fighter opposition was fierce, and the flak was thick. Apparently the attack was carried out by a near-record or record number of bombers, but the effectiveness of the attack was not immediately revealed.

Today, the American Air Force picked up where the British left off last night and are pounding important targets in Germany and continued attention is being given the French invasion coast.

That the wave of air attacks is continuing to sweep Hitler's "bomb-proof" fortress, is evidenced in reports released last night. Bulgaria's capital, Sofia, was bombed. Airfields in Holland and Germany were attacked. Rail yards near Paris, and an airplane engine plant at Lyons, France, were damaged, and Kiel, the German Bapctic port, was heavily hit.

No late news has come from Italy where the Allies admittedly lost ground at Cassino but are believed to be making preparations for a push in the Anzio beachhead. In the meantime, the great Russian offensive continues to roll forward.

Battering down the barriers of Hitler's cringing satellite states, the Red Army yesterday seized Czernowitz, German fortress that had guarded the path to Rumania and Hungary, and climbed up the Prut River banks into the Carpathian Mountains to a point only fifteen miles from the Hungarian-held corner of Czechoslovakia.

After storming Czernowitz and smashing its large German garrison, the Russians raced on through Storozhints, eleven miles to the southwest.

No move beyond the 1941 Soviet borders was reported, although Soviet troops remained poised along the Prut where it forms the Rumanian frontier southeast of Czernowitz, and broadened their grip on the north bank.

Enhancing a plainly-implied bid to Hungary and Rumania to turn against Hitler or be invaded, the Soviet might might communique told of surrenders by units of both countries' troops and the rout of others.

In the Pacific an American task force attacked Palau Island at the extreme western end of the Caroline group, and Truk has been dealt another blow, the two operations featuring the latest developments in the Pacific war.

The Jap threat to cut Allied supply lines and the drive toward Manipur in India have met with reverses, and the situation there is slightly improved for the Allies. About 500 Japs, maneuvering to force 1,000 of their men trapped in the Mogaung Valley, were killed without the loss of a single Allied soldier.

On the diplomatic front, the reports from Italy are not encouraging. The economic situation there is bad — so bad that the people of Naples say that they were better off under the Nazis than they are under the Allied Military Government. Under AMG, a family of five does not get enough food to feed three persons. And the argument over who will or will not recognize continues. Many were disturbed because Russia recognized Badoglio, while if Russia had not recognized him, many would have said he was planning to spread communism in Italy. Our present policy in Italy can invite most any ism, some believe.

And on the home front, Martin Dies and Walter Winchell are busy smearing, while Chas. Chaplain exemplifies the moral drift.

## Announce Prizes for Fat Livestock Show

The prize list for the first independent fat livestock show to be held in this county was announced this week by the sponsoring committee. The show will be held in Williamston on April 27, the same date that the Martin County Farm Bureau will hold its annual meeting and barbecue.

Much interest is being shown in the livestock show which is open to any stockman or farmer living in the county.

The prize list follows: Swine department, Class I, for 4-H club members. Pen of 3 fat hogs, weighing not less than 180 nor more than 250 pounds each: 1st, \$8; 2nd, \$6.00; 3rd, \$4.00; 4th, \$2.00; 5th, \$1.00; 6th, \$1.00.

Class II, for Adult farmers. Pen of 3 fat hogs, weighing not less than 180 nor more than 225 pounds each: 1st, \$6.00; 2nd, \$4.00; 3rd, \$2.00; 4th, \$2.00; 5th, \$1.00. Champion Pen: Ribbon. Reserve Champion Pen: Ribbon.

Beef Cattle department, Class I, for 4-H club members. Individual Fat Steers show at halter: 1st, \$19.00; 2nd, \$8.00; 3rd, \$6.00; 4th, \$4.00; 5th, \$4.00.

Class II, For Adult farmers. Individual Fat Steers show at halter: 1st, \$8.00; 2nd, \$6.00; 3rd, \$4.00; 4th, \$4.00; 5th, \$2.00. Champion steer: ribbon. Reserve champion steer: ribbon.

Any person wishing to enter their stock in this show, please see Mr. K. P. Lindsley or the county agent, Williamston, on or before April 22.

## Justice Hassell Handles Two Cases In His Court

Justice J. L. Hassell handled only two cases in his court this week, and one of those was based on an alleged violation nearly five months old. A. E. Lewis, charged with starting a woods fire without a permit, was required to pay \$5.50 costs.

Jesse Williams, charged with public drunkenness, was taxed \$8.50 costs.

## More Men Report For Pre-Induction Exams

### Men Leaving County This Morning Come From Single Group

#### Fairly Small Call for More Colored Men Will Be Answered Soon

More Martin County colored men left the county this morning for their pre-induction examinations at a service center, and unofficial reports state that a considerably larger number will be called to report for the preliminary tests during the early part of April.

The group leaving today was a comparatively small one including ten men who were reported to this county from other boards for the initial physical examinations.

Many of the group are believed to have been examined previously and are being called from the 4-F group. Possibly twenty of the men held a 4-F classification up until recently, indicating that the services are searching the 4-F roster for manpower or that the causes supporting the 4-F classifications have been remedied.

As far as it could be learned all the men are single, and only one was ruled non-essential to the farm program. Very few of the men are in their teens, the ages of the others ranging from around 22 to 37 years of age, seven of them being over thirty.

The names of the men, and their addresses follow: Theodore Watson, Washington, D. C., and Williamston; transferred from Washington, D. C. William Edward Johnson, Wil-

(Continued on page six)

## PLEADINGS

The proposed plan to draft all single men and non-fathers between 18 and 25 years of age, has brought forth a flood of appeals in this county. At first, the draft authorities, Wheeler Martin, appeal agent for the draft board, explained that little or nothing could be done to have farmer deferments continued. Now, other changes are being proposed, and the officials are not certain what will be the course of the draft. They are merely advising the appellants to wait developments.

## Vocational Groups To Promote Exhibit

On April 6th, the Williamston Colored High School Home Economics and Vocational Agriculture Departments will exhibit a feature of the work completed for the Spring quarter.

In the afternoon at 2:30 p. m., a short program will be given in the school auditorium by students of the departments. Following the program the exhibit which will be on display in the Home Economics Department, may be seen.

The exhibit will consist of: Articles from the Clothing Construction Classes; articles from the Home Nursing Class, articles from the Home Improvement Classes, Handicraft, Woodwork, Garden Plans, exhibit of Canned Foods from Agriculture and Home Economic F.P.W.T. Program.

The public is invited to witness both the program and exhibit.

## Officials Plan To Get Ballot To Servicemen

### VOLUNTEER

Hewett Andrews, RFD 1, Williamston, volunteered for service in the Navy here today, subject to the successful passage of the physical examinations. He is to report to New Bern April 14th. Two other 17-year-old boys offered to volunteer, but their parents had not signed, giving their consent at noon today. Recruiter Dallas Taylor explained.

## Library Directors Hold Meeting Here

The directors of the Williamston Public Library met Wednesday afternoon in the office of Mayor John L. Hassell. Reports were had from the librarian and the treasurer. It was noted with much encouragement that more than eight thousand volumes had been circulated during the past eight months. A plan for the enlistment of more friends for the library was perfected. Some new equipment was ordered for the continued expansion of library service.

Mrs. J. C. Cook was re-elected as librarian and Rev. John L. Goff was re-elected as chairman.

The local library was opened to the public on April 11, 1938. Since that time the library has circulated more than 65,000 volumes and now owns almost 2,100 volumes. Being a depository for the BHM Regional Library Association, many hundreds of books outside of its own collection is made available to the reading public.

A large collection of magazines is also available for reading in the library room in the City Hall.

## Application May Be Clipped From Paper For Primary Ticket

### Relatives Are Asked To File Applications and Give Voter's Address

Apparently well convinced that the man who fights is entitled to participate in elections if he can meet certain simple regulations, the Martin County Board of Elections, Sylvester Peel, Chairman, is making plans to get ballots into the hands of servicemen, including members of the United States Merchant Marine.

The procedure is quite simple, but the time element offers a threat to the ballot. This threat, however, can possibly be overcome if relatives act quickly and in accordance with printed instructions appearing elsewhere in this paper along with an application form for a ballot.

The relative, wife, husband, brother, sister, parent or child, of a serviceman may apply for a ballot for him. Only one application need be filed. The application form may be clipped from this paper or it will be made available shortly by the county and precinct election officials. The relative will supply the proper information, including the home address and service address of the serviceman. The applicant will then sign his or her name and mail it to Mr. Sylvester Peel, chairman of the Martin County Board of Elections, RFD 1, Williamston, N. C., and he will do the rest. The voter himself will declare his party affiliation.

The one application will entitle (Continued on page six)