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Hundreds Of Tires Allotted In County By Ration Board

Virtually All Applications Are Handled By Board Friday Evening

Working for several hours last Friday afternoon and night, members of the Martin County War Price and Rationing Board handled virtually all applications for tires and started anew after issuing 375 tires—151 grade I's, 204 grade II's and twenty for trucks, tractors and farm implements.

Grade I tires for cars, pick-up trucks, trucks and farm implements were issued, as follows:

- Cecil Brown, Oak City, one tire.
- G. L. Taylor, RFD 1, Williamston, two tires and one tube.
- J. A. Haislip, Hassell, one tire.
- M. J. Holliday, RFD 1, Williamston, two tires and two tubes.
- Archie Whitaker, RFD 3, Williamston, two tires and two tubes.
- Haywood Fields, Palmyra, one tire and one tube.
- R. S. Edmondson, Hobgood, one tire.
- J. H. Bland, Oak City, two tires and two tubes.
- Hassell Worsley, Oak City, one tire.
- A. P. Hyman, Palmyra, one tire and two tubes.
- Claude Keel, Robersonville, one tire.
- M. B. Hardison, RFD 1, Oak City, one tire and one tube.
- Willie H. Roberson, Robersonville, two tires.
- Wm. M. Jones, Hobgood, one tire and one tube.
- Willie Davis, RFD 2, Williamston, one tire and one tube.
- Thurman Roberson, Robersonville, three tires and three tubes.
- Jim Haislip, Robersonville, one tire and one tube.
- Ben Rogers, Williamston, one tire.
- Jimmie Roberson, Robersonville, one tire.
- A. E. Downs, Hassell, one tire and one tube.
- Willie R. Evans, RFD 2, Williamston, one tire and one tube.
- Alvis Curtis, Robersonville, one tire and two tubes.
- Marshall Savage, Williamston, one tire and one tube.
- L. F. Waters, Jamesville, one tire and one tube.
- Charlie Forbes, Robersonville, three tires and two tubes.
- Harry Reed, RFD 1, Williamston, two tires and one tube.
- Andrew Mobley, Hassell, one tire.
- J. B. Harrington, Palmyra, one tire.
- Frank Leathers, Hobgood, one tire and one tube.
- James Best, RFD 1, Bethel, one tire and one tube.
- Gussie Harrison, RFD 2, Williamston, one tire and one tube.
- L. A. Roebuck, RFD 2, Williamston, one tire.
- Edgar Ballard, Robersonville, two tires and two tubes.
- Garland Rogers, RFD 2, Williamston, two tires.
- R. M. Clark, RFD 1, Jamesville, one tire and one tube.
- Romulus G. Rogerson, RFD 2, Williamston, one tire and one tube.
- R. Elliott Taylor, Robersonville, one tire and one tube.
- C. D. Jenkins, Robersonville, one tire.
- Arthur Johnson, Robersonville, two tires and two tubes.
- Saunders Revels, RFD 1, Williamston, one tire.
- Henry D. Harrison, Williamston, one tire.
- Mrs. Alfred Griffin, RFD 2, Williamston, two tires.
- V. J. Spivey, Agent, Williamston, one tire.
- W. A. Rogers, RFD 2, Williamston, one tire.
- W. A. Manning, RFD 1, Williamston, one tire.
- Willie L. Lassiter, Williamston, one tire and one tube.
- Leslie E. Hardison, Jamesville, two tires.
- W. R. Banks, Williamston, two tires.
- Kessie Feil, RFD 3, Washington, one tire.
- W. M. Griffin, Jamesville, two tires.
- Marion Waters, Jamesville, two tires.
- Crawford Coltrain, RFD 1, Williamston, one tire.

Tire Shortage Problem Still Exists, Ration Officials State

Despite the liberal allotment of tires by the Martin County War Price and Rationing Board last Friday, and the announcement stating that "B" and "C" gas coupon holders were eligible for Grade I's, the tire shortage still exists, according to a report coming direct from rationing officials this week. In the first place, rationing will continue, meaning that applications will have to be filed and approved before tires can be bought.

That the situation might improve in time, is not to be doubted, but at the time the authorities were announcing that all "B" and "C" gas coupon holders were entitled to Grade I tires, the actual allotment in this county was increased by only fourteen tires. Now, if the enlarged list of eligibles can be supplied from

that additional allotment, the problem is solved. But the records show that past allotments have not been limited number of eligibles. Receiving one of the largest extra allotments in the State last week, this county virtually caught up with the demand. Some of the applications had been pending since last January and February, and despite recent announcements a similar situation is likely to develop again if the monthly allotments are not increased. Just now more competition has been created among the applicants, and the rationing authorities will find it more difficult in handling their work.

This month the county has been allotted 115 Grade I tires and 164 passenger tubes, 49 small and large truck tires and 40 tubes.

Convention Endorses Administration Policy

TRANSPLANTING

Tobacco transplanting got underway on a small scale in this county last week, but cold weather and the spread of blue mold during the last few days has just about halted the work. Possibly a few are transplanting today, but reports from various parts of the county maintain that the work will be advanced on no large scale for at least another week and possible ten days. The blue mold is reported to be striking the plants hard, and it is general over the county.

Farmer Jesse Keel is believed to be among the first to transplant any of the 1944 crop. Several acres were set on his Peel farm in Cross Roads Township last Wednesday. Frank Haislip transplanted a few acres in Goose Nest Township Thursday, and a dozen or more farmers were engaged in the work in various other parts of the county Friday.

Man's Body Taken From River Here

The body of Joe Warren, local man who was drowned in Roanoke River in the late afternoon or early evening, Sunday, April 23, was recovered about 6:30 o'clock last Friday evening. The 57-year-old man is believed to have fallen out of his boat near a fishing machine at Frying Pan, about five miles up the river. A search was made for several days and dynamite was used last Thursday, but no trace of the body was found until it was seen floating down the river about two miles below Frying Pan. He was wearing heavy boots when he drowned, and they had a tendency to hold the body in an upright position. When it was seen, the head was leaning forward a bit, and part of his shoulders were out of the water.

Mr. E. G. Wynne, a partner of Warren's in the fishing business, retrieved the body and turned it over to the undertakers. It was in a fair state of preservation when found, but decomposition set in rapidly after it was removed from the water. Prepared for burial, the body was placed in a steel vault. There was no sign of foul play and an inquest was ruled unnecessary.

Pre-School Clinics Scheduled In County

The first in a series of pre-school clinics in the county's white schools will be held in Williamston on Thursday of this week. They will be continued through May 13, if health office announced. Parents are asked to accompany their children to the clinics and help get them ready to enter school next fall.

The clinic schedule:

- May 4 and 5, Williamston, 9:30-12:00; May 8, Jamesville, 9:30-12:00; May 9, Farm Life, 9:30-12:00; May 10, Bear Grass, 9:30-12:00; May 11, Robersonville, 9:30-12:00; May 12, Robersonville, 9:30-12:00; May 15, Oak City, 9:30-12:00; May 16, Hamilton, 9:30-12:00; May 17, Gold Point, 10:00-12:00; May 17, Hassell, 2:00-3:30; May 18, Everetts, 9:30-12:00.

Escaped Convict Is Taken Here Yesterday Afternoon

Charlie Bonds, colored man serving 28 months on the roads for larceny, escaped from a prison camp in Washington County yesterday morning and was arrested here a few hours later by Patrolman W. E. Saunders. He was returned to the proper authorities.

Board of County Commissioners In Regular Session

Welfare Budget, Calling For Increase of \$1,254,52 Is Approved

The approval of the 1944-45 county welfare budget featured the regular monthly meeting of the Martin County commissioners here yesterday, the official family continuing in session a greater part of the day handling that task and disposing of other duties falling, more or less, in the routine class.

Despite a strong movement advanced during recent years, there are some few "water ridges" vehicular traffic is using for roads in this county. The meeting this week recommended that the 2.6 miles long road known as the Cox Road in Goose Nest Township, leading from the residence of Jack Stalls and running southwesterly to the Bethel Highway, be widened. It was pointed out in a petition signed by sixteen citizens that the road was used by school buses and rural free delivery carriers.

Taxes in the sum of \$5.51 and charged through error against Jacob Station of Goose Nest were cancelled. A relief order was issued relieving the estate of David O. Bowen of the payment of \$2 taxes.

The tax collector in his report said: That all but \$10,750.91 of the \$200,327.82 1943 tax levy had been collected.

That all but \$3,402.52 of the 1942 levy of \$214,252.46 had been paid, and

That the unpaid balance on the 1941 levy was only \$2,472.70. The levy for that year was \$204,837.67. Real estate will be advertised within the next few days in those cases where the 1943 taxes have not been paid, in accordance with an order from the Board of Commissioners.

Juryman for the regular June term of superior court were drawn. The new welfare budget, showing an increase of \$1,254.52 over the current fiscal year figures, calls for a total expenditure of \$36,864.68. Salaries, including those of the superintendent, two case workers, a junior stenographer and junior general clerk and travel, were increased from \$7,720.00 to \$8,120.00, the increase coming after \$200 had been lopped off the request for travel allowances. A \$50 increase was allowed in office expenses, the budget figure standing at \$450. The figures for the county home were reduced from \$5,259.00 to \$5,200 and the allowance for the tuberculosis sanatorium was decreased from \$5,330 to \$5,300. Hospitalization, general relief, burial expenses, drugs and miscellaneous will cost about the same in 1944-45 as they are costing this year, the figure standing at \$5,685.00.

The big increase in the budget figures is traceable to the old age assistance fund which is being advanced from \$7,095 to \$8,136, but aid to dependent children is being reduced by \$162 or from \$3,402 to \$3,240. Aid to the blind is being increased from \$719.16 to \$733.68. The proposed budget would increase the old age assistance allowance from \$10.98 to an even \$12 per month, on an average, the superintendent pointed out.

Chas. H. Godwin, Jr., was named chairman of the convention and L. B. Wynne served as secretary. Foregoing all formalities, the convention called the roll and found only five of the precincts—Jamesville, Bear Grass, Williamston one and two, and Robersonville—represented. The election of the precinct committees, postponed the Saturday before when few or no democrats found time to attend the district sessions, was little more than a formality, and few changes were made in the precinct party personnel.

By unanimous vote the following were elected to the precinct posts: Jamesville: A. Corey, chairman; F. W. Holliday, J. C. Kirkman, Clarence Barber and H. L. Davis. Williams: Joshua L. Coltrain, chairman; W. W. Griffin, Mrs. R. J. Harrison, S. J. Tetterton and Charlie Pate. Griffins: Pleny Peel, chairman; C. C. Coltrain, Geo. C. Griffin, W. T. Roberson, Mrs. J. Eason Lillye. Bear Grass: J. D. Wynne, chairman; Delmus Rogers, LeRoy Harrison, T. L. Roberson, Gomer Harrison.

Williamston, No. 1: C. B. Roebuck, chairman; J. Sam Gotsinger, Miss Clyde Hassell, C. H. Godwin, Sr., and S. C. Griffin. Williamston, No. 2: H. G. Horton, chairman; C. D. Castanovich, W. E. Saunders, and J. B. Harrington.

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Representatives from the Martin County Board of Health will be on hand to examine the group of beginners and immunize them against certain diseases. Parent-teacher members will assist with the health cards and school records.

Local Pre-School Clinic This Week

The pre-school clinic for children who will enroll in the Williamston school for the first time next term will be held at the grammar school building on Thursday and Friday, May 4 and 5, during the morning hours of 9 to 12. Children who will be six years old on or before October 1, 1944, are eligible to enroll in the first grade next fall and should attend the clinic.

Special Picture In Jamesville School

The special picture, "The Battle of Russia," will be shown in the Jamesville School auditorium Friday evening of this week at 8:30 o'clock, it was announced today by Mr. Chas. Davenport, chief observer of the Airplane Spotters' Post there. Released by the Army through the First Fighter Command, the special picture has already been shown in several centers in this county to large audiences. Lt. Skinner and Sgt. Lehner of the First Fighter Command will be in Jamesville that evening, Mr. Davenport said.

County Draft Board Recognizes Hardship Cases In Passing On Farmers' Claims For Deferment

Find Bogus Gasoline Coupons In Martin County Last Month

While there has been some activity on the gasoline black market in county during recent months, bogus gasoline coupons did not appear on any appreciable scale until fairly recently, according to information coming from the War Price and Rationing Board in the county this week.

Over 300 counterfeit gasoline coupons were received in the office last week-end, meaning that between 1,500 and 2,000 gallons of gasoline were sold illegally. The coupons were scattered from one end of the county to the other, and only one or two stations reported none. No charges are being brought against the filling station owners or operators, but a warning has been issued against the acceptance of bogus coupons. If a station depletes its inventory by accepting the counterfeit coupon, it will be closed and the operator will not be allowed to reopen for business, it was announced. While it is possible for the station to be re-opened, definite proof must be had that the old operator will not be connected with it in any way.

Rationing board authorities point out that while it might be difficult to distinguish the counterfeit coupons, filling station operators can check the license number on the car with the one written on the coupon, and in most cases he can protect himself by tearing the coupon from the block.

Most of the bogus tickets were of the "C" and "B" denominations, and in most cases did not carry the proper license numbers.

Powerful Air Blows Are Dealt Enemy In Pre-invasion Thrust

Roaring into its seventeenth day, the pre-invasion air thrust against Hitler's European Fortress is rapidly approaching a new climax, causing many to wonder how much longer the victims will try to hold out against such poundings.

The date guessed for the invasion probably has come and gone, and some of the armchair observers are now of the opinion that activities on the invasion front are being delayed pending the outcome of the merciless pounding of targets in Germany, Belgium and France by the Allied Air Forces. Some sources say that the German people are questioning the Nazi regime more and more under the burden of air attacks and invasion tension, and that they realize "the sand is running out fast."

Yesterday, 3,500 Allied planes pounded targets, ammunition dumps and anti-invasion fortifications in France and Belgium, and today strong formations of Allied planes are again over Germany. Four American bombers and three fighters were lost in the raids yesterday, and there was little opposition in the air.

While the 8th and 9th American Air Forces and the RAF were pounding France and Belgium, Allied airmen struck costly blows against enemy plane manufacturing centers at Varese and Bresso and other targets in Italy.

On the other side of the world, American airmen were busy pounding Truk and Ponape in the Carolines, and other Jap bases in the North Pacific and in the Marshalls.

There is little activity on the land battlefronts except in China where the war-weary Chinese just recently suffered a severe blow in the fall of Hulao Pass in northern Hunan Province.

Their guesses apparently proved wrong, some of the armchair strategists have stated, the talk about the time and place for the invasion of the continent.

For two weeks now it has been comparatively quiet on the Russian front, and it is believed the Russians are waiting to strike in conjunction with the opening of a Second Front. That Russia will carry the war beyond its own borders was made certain yesterday when Marshal Stalin said that the enemy must be tracked down and destroyed in its own lair.

The war can be ended by Russia striking in the east and the Allies in the west," Stalin said in a May Day talk.

SEINE FISHING

Delayed week after week by high waters, seine fishing in the Roanoke at Jamesville finally got underway yesterday. Even if large catches are made from now on, the season will almost be a failure.

Yesterday, the catches averaged around 1,000 herring for each haul, and few rock were taken. Today, the size of the catches are considerably larger, one report stating that they were taking as many as 3,000 herring at a dip and quite a few rock.

So far, the operators have sold the catches about as rapidly as they could be made, and it is quite evident that the demand cannot be met.

No Possible Way To Avoid A Reduction In Farm Production

About One Out of Three Farm Registrants Called To Be Inducted

Still without a yard stick to go by in handling their work, the Martin County Draft Board members last Friday night debated at length some plan they could follow in calling the farm youth for induction. Although the proposed plan is not perfect, the board tentatively agreed that no farmer, regardless of age, will be ordered for induction if he is the last man on a farm. In other words, if there are three registrants on a single farm whose ages range from 18 to 25 years, inclusive, two can expect to be called. This plan, it is admitted, does not solve the serious problem, according to the draft board chairman who points out that some farms are so small that a deferment could not be justly supported by the limited or negligible production.

Reviewing the work of the meeting, Chairman R. H. Goodman said today that it is quite possible that production will be curtailed in some cases. "But we have no alternative, and it is possible that we will be instructed to take all youths between the stipulated ages," Mr. Goodman explained.

While production curtailment is certain in some cases, the over-all draft picture is not as dark for agriculture as it would seem. For instance, thirty-six Martin County white farmers were called recently for pre-induction examinations. Less than half, or seventeen of the group passed. The draft board recognized five hardship cases in the list, and one case is pending for investigation. It is now fairly certain that not more than twelve of the original thirty-six farmers will be called for induction, and it is possible that not more than 11 will be inducted.

There is a pre-induction call pending for white men. While the size of the call could not be definitely learned, it isn't believed to be unduly large, and it is the belief of some of the draft officials that the men who answer that call will hardly be inducted before the latter part of July or early August.

That's the draft picture as it is understood to affect the farm registrant. For industrial or non-farm registrants, the county draft board has no jurisdiction now. A non-farm registrant between 18 and 25 years of age, inclusive, may appeal, but his claim is considered only by the State director of Selective Service. Two such deferments have been granted to county registrants, one by the Selective Service Director in this State to Julian Hugo Carson, white, of Parmele and Rocky Mount, and the other by the Maryland State Director to James E. and Baltimore, white, of Robersonville and Baltimore. No deferment is for more than six months, either for a farmer or industrial worker.

The board in this county last Friday night did not open the cases of non-farm registrants who are in the 18-25 age group, but the following action was taken for those registrants who are on the farm and who are subject to call, more or less immediately.

- William Henry Bullock, col., Hassell, continued in 1-A.
- Jesse Bennett, col., RFD 1, Oak City, continued in 1-A.
- Willie Clifton Jones, col., RFD 2, Robersonville, deferred six months.
- Charlie Bowen, w., RFD 2, Williamston, continued in 1-A.
- Simon Jasper Barber, w., RFD 1, Jamesville, continued in 1-A.
- Claude Halford House, w., RFD 2, Robersonville, continued in 1-A.
- Robert Wilmer Barber, w., RFD 1, Jamesville, continued in 1-A.

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One Hurt In Auto Accident Saturday

Charlie Kincaid, Martin County man, was painfully cut on the nose and bruised when the car in which he was riding crashed into one driven by Aaron Council, colored, on Highway No. 11 in the Stingy Point section of this county last Saturday night about 9:30 o'clock. Several others in the two cars were slightly bruised or shocked, it was said.

Council, stopping to discharge a passenger on his left side of the road, was making ready to drive off when Woodrow Ippock, driver of the Kincaid car, became confused and drove further to his right, apparently in an effort to run around the Council car. The lights of the Council car blinded him, it was explained. About \$50 damage was done to each car.

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ABSENTEE VOTING

The first of the 1944 primary election ballots sent to service men from this county have been returned to Mr. Sylvester Peel, elections board chairman, it was learned last week-end. However, it is quite evident that absentee voting by servicemen from this county will be unusually light. According to the elections board chairman only 78 applications for ballots have been received by him to date.

It is possibly too late to get ballots to and from men in foreign service, but there are several hundred young men from the county in various camps and stations in the country who could participate in the election on May 25th if relatives would apply for the ballots for them. It is also possible for the servicemen to apply for the ballots by writing direct to the board chairman.

Junior Club Has Anniversary Party

On Friday evening, April 21, the Williamston Junior Woman's Club celebrated their seventh anniversary when they entertained their husbands and invited guests at a dinner party held at the Hotel George Reynolds. The affair was fashioned after radio's famous "Breakfast at Sardies" program.

The dining hall was decorated throughout with a profusion of early spring flowers and lighted tapers. Guests found their places by placecards decorated with miniature ladies hats for the ladies and walking canes for the gentlemen. Mr. Bruce Wynne acted as master of ceremonies and Mr. J. C. Eubanks as Uncle Corny.

Following the three course dinner Mr. Wynne conducted the program and prizes were awarded to Mrs. Ben Courtney for the silliest hat and for drawing the lucky number for the makeup kit. Mrs. Henry Griffin won the wishing ring and Miss Edna Barnhill and Mr. Julian Harrel were presented prizes for winning the shoe contest.

The club selected Mrs. A. R. Dunning as Williamston's "Women of the Year" and the clubs good, good neighbor. A letter and a gift of cut flowers were sent to Mrs. Dunning from the club as a token of respect she so richly deserves for her untiring efforts in behalf of humanity, her kindness and unselfishness to people in all walks of life, dating back through the years to World War one. Mrs. H. O. Peele the club's outgoing president was remembered with a gift. The evening's program was brought to a close with the singing of the famous "Breakfast at Sardies" song.

Farm Families in the County Make Cheese

The second cheese-making demonstration in this county will be held in the courthouse auditorium Thursday afternoon of this week at two o'clock, Miss Ida Roberts of the Farm Security Administration, announced. The first demonstration was held with colored families about ten days ago, and they are turning out American cheese in fair-sized quantities now, Miss Roberts said.

Town Authorities In Short Session

With little business scheduled for consideration, the town commissioners were in session only a short time here last evening. An application for a license to sell wine for off-premises consumption was denied the operators of the Hotel George Reynolds. The commissioners appropriated approximately \$150 for clearing and improving the playground for colored children just off Broad Street. Real estate upon which ordered advertised the second week in this month for sale the second Monday in June. No late report on tax collections was available, but the treasurer explained that they were considerably ahead of those received in the corresponding period a year ago.