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Thirteen Divorces Granted During Two Days In Court Here

Few Other Civil Cases Handled Before Short Term Is Ended Tuesday

There were very few criminal cases on the docket and the regular run of civil cases hardly scored, but the superior court almost ran the divorce mill hot before ending a short term here early last Tuesday afternoon. Five divorces, all based on two years of separation, were granted the first day of the term after the criminal docket was cleared in one fashion or another. On Tuesday the divorce mill was placed in high gear again and by early afternoon eight more divorces were granted. Based on two years of separation, divorces were granted Tuesday in the following cases: C. M. Burden against Lillie Burden, Cass Robert Leary against Sallie Woodley Leary, William Thompson against Emma Brown Thompson, John Luther White against Minnie Hurdle White, Rossie Edwards against Matilda Edwards, Emily Davis and Alma Davis, William Stator against Clara Ann Stator, and Allie Mae Pritchett against Simon Joshua Pritchett. All of the parties, except those in the last case, are colored. Out of the 13 divorces granted during the term, eleven of the cases were brought by colored citizens. Up until a comparatively short time ago, few colored citizens ever went to the court in this county to have their matrimonial bonds severed. One or two other divorce cases scheduled for trial during the recent term were continued. In the case brought by the Primitive Baptist Corresponding Association of Eastern North Carolina against Julian Callier and others, the court dissolved a restraining order and calendared the action for trial at the next term of superior court in September. It is understood that some of the flock are alleged to have wandered from the straight and narrow path laid out by creed and doctrine, and a dispute resulted over the rightful owner of the church properties. The association, created and maintained by colored citizens, is made up of several churches in this and surrounding counties. A motion for a non-suit was allowed in the case brought by Realty Associates, Inc., against L. B. Culpepper. The action was brought in an effort to have a deed to certain properties set aside. The plaintiffs were taxed with the cost. Notice of appeal was given, and bond in the sum of \$100 was fixed by Judge C. Everett Thompson who presided over the term. In the case of Janie Dempsey against William Henry Dempsey, the court ordered the defendant to pay \$20 a month through September to the plaintiff for the support of her children. The case was calendared for trial in September. R. L. Coburn was appointed referee and he is to hear the evidence and make his report in the case brought by J. C. Anderson and others against J. B. Cherry. The court attracted very small crowds during the two brief sessions, and there was little interest in the proceedings.

Some Tobacco Farmers Plant In Excess of Assigned Quotas

According to unofficial information heard here, tobacco farmers in this county have planted in excess of their tobacco allotments, one report stating that supervisors making spot checks had found the planted acreage to be in excess of the measurements reported by the growers. Possibly the excess acreage was not planted intentionally, but it was learned that the quotas had been exceeded by as much as an acre and a half or more. Only forty spot checks have been made, the supervisors finding about 25 per cent of the number planting in excess of the allotments. It is understood that no excess acreage is to be destroyed, that in all such cases, the grower will be expected to pay a penalty on his surplus production. According to one report, plans are being considered for extending the spot check system, but possibly the growers will be surveyed to determine compliance. Despite the excess plantings found in some cases, it is still believed by many that the acreage planted to tobacco in the county will hardly be as large as it was last year, and it will be recalled that the 1943 plantings were nearly 3,000 acres below the quota maximum. In addition to the limited acreage, tobacco production prospects are being dangerously aggravated by weather conditions. The crop is badly broken and considerably behind growing schedules as a result of the dry and hot weather. Some farmers state that their crops are literally burning up in the fields, and that the prospects are not very encouraging.

Bernice L. Rogerson And Asa Taylor Give Lives For Country

Casualty Messages Received By Parents in Bear Grass This Week

Bernice Leland Rogerson and Asa J. Taylor, both of Bear Grass Township, were killed in action in Italy a few days ago, their parents were advised by the War Department this week. No details were given in the brief messages. Bernice Rogerson, the son of Chas. Gilbert and Ethel Mizelle Rogerson of Bear Grass, was born in this county on March 25, 1923. He entered the service the 19th of last August, and after completing his training at Fort McClellan, Alabama, and a short stay at Fort Mead, Md., he was transferred to North Africa last February. The young man was there only a short time before he was sent to Italy where he took part in the Anzio beachhead fighting. It is believed he gave his life in the battle for Rome, the message stating that he was killed in action on May 26. In a last letter to loved ones back home, he told his mother and father that he was getting along well and asked them not to worry about him. He told his younger brothers and sisters to keep the home band playing, that he would be back some day to play with them. The youth had very little to say about his part in the great battles he participated in, but he told of a visit to Naples. It is a beautiful city but so many are poverty stricken there, he was quoted as writing. Full of life and promise, the young man was most accommodating and was ever ready to help others. While he enjoyed the freedom of youth, he recognized his obligations and could be found carrying his fair share of the work on the home farm, and he was a cherished link in a happy family. Besides his parents he is survived by the following brothers and sisters, Mrs. Jap Lilley, Samuel, Carroll Gray, Amanda Faye, Emily Grace, John Prentess and Leuvenia Rogerson, all of this county, Miss Olivia Rogerson of Norfolk, and a brother, Mack Gilbert Rogerson, who has been in the Navy about four years and who was badly wounded soon after the war started. Asa J. Taylor was born in Bear Grass Township on April 12, 1923, the son of George Robert and Annie (Continued on page four)

Two County Boys Are Killed And Four Others Wounded In Action In Italy and New Guinea Recently

Killed on Italian Front



Asa J. Taylor, young son of Mr. and Mrs. George Robert Taylor, and Bernice L. Rogerson, right, young son of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Gilbert Rogerson, were recently killed in action on the Italian front, possibly in the drive on Rome. Neighbors and good friends, the young men entered the service in August of last year and were together until they left Africa for Italy.

Two County Youths Are Killed In Action In Italian Campaign

Billy Biggs, Joe Taylor, Harold Nicholson and Marvin Manning Wounded

The war exacted a heavy toll among Martin County's gallant fighting men on widely separated battle fronts in recent days, it was learned here this week when casualty messages arrived one after another announcing the deaths of two young men and explaining that four others had suffered wounds in the fight for their country. Few details were offered in any of the terse messages, but in most of the homes words heaped upon words could hardly lighten the burden of sorrow and lessen the distress and keen anxiety. Between deep sobs, members of the families yesterday shared willingly the little bits of news they had received from the War Department, and while they earnestly tried to be brave, a tear would flow unchecked first down one cheek and then the other. It is now apparent the war is coming home to many of us, but surely news from the invasion or other fronts can be no worse than that tearing into a half dozen or more homes in the county this week. Two of the messages came from far-away New Guinea and the other four came from Italy, and since no news from the invasion front is considered good news, there is hope that casualties were light or non-existent among Martin County's youthful fighting men. Two of the men, Pvt. Bernice Leland Rogerson and Pfc. Asa J. Taylor who laid down their lives for their country, were neighbors and lived on the same farm in Bear Grass Township. They gave their lives in the battle for Rome, the message received early this week by Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Gilbert Rogerson stating that their son was killed in action in Italy on May 26. Mr. and Mrs. George Robert Taylor were advised yesterday that their son had been killed in action on June 2 in Italy. These two youths, hardly ten months in the armed services, were the twenty-first and twenty-second Martin County men to make the supreme sacrifice in the service of their country. Joseph Chester Lee Taylor was slightly wounded the early part of this month somewhere in New Guinea, according to information received this week by his aunt, Mrs. Rudolph Goff, RFD 3, Williamston. In the service about two years, he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Taylor who moved from this county last February and located near Conetoe. (Continued on page four)

Preliminary Reports Made on Bond Drive

Renewed Effort Is Asked On Part Of The General Public

Only \$125,014.50 of Quota of \$856,000 Has Been Subscribed

Following the receipt last night of the first preliminary reports, County Chairman Herman A. Bowen issued a strong appeal to all the people of Martin County, urging them to renew their efforts and offer a stronger support for the Fifth War Loan Drive now underway throughout the nation. The reports, while admittedly incomplete, show that only \$125,014.50 of the \$856,000 quota has been subscribed to date. At the same time, nearly every report pointed out the apparent indifference on the part of so many people, how so many, white and colored, rich and poor, were squandering their time and money that could be put to such vital use. Several canvassers, giving of their time and means, were said to be terribly discouraged, but they were asked to go back and make a second appeal in their assigned districts. Nearly two weeks of the time set aside for the drive are gone. "E" bond sales to date total hardly more than \$52,000 or less than \$2 per capita. And the less than 2,000 service men from Martin County bought \$8,877 of the "E" bonds reported to date, or about one-sixth of the total. According to incomplete but latest figures available, eight townships have subscribed to bonds in the following amounts: Jamesville, \$168,75; Williams, \$975; Griffins, \$1,143.75; Bear Grass, \$400; Williamston, \$52,400; Cross Roads, \$131.25; Robersonville, \$28,931.25; Hamilton, (Continued on page four)

IMPROVING

Dr. Victor E. Brown was reported to be improving today in a Durham hospital where he has been undergoing treatment since early last Sunday morning. While he was said not to be feeling so well today, his condition is much better and it is expected that he will possibly be able to return home some time next week. One report stated that he had had a light attack of pneumonia, possibly the result of over-work, but that it had been brought under control by penicillin. He was running a little temperature this morning.

County Bookmobile Will Make Regular Schedule Next Week

New Books Added To Collection For Distribution In This County

When the bookmobile begins its regular schedule in this county on Monday, June 26, there will be new titles from which the borrowers may choose. One which should bring comfort to many in this time is Margaret Lee Runbeck's The Great Answer. Here are related the experiences of fighting men and women who turned to God in time of peril and how they were answered. Captain Retread by Donald Hough relates the reaction and experiences of the men of the last war commissioned in this. "Retread officers," is what the army calls them. Here the author uses a splendid chance to pay fine tribute to the American soldier. Eisenhower Man and Soldier by Miller is a most readable biography of a typical American boy from a typical American town who is doing the outstanding job in this War II. It is also the story of the Eisenhower family and background. Fair Stood the Wind for France is not for those who want to escape war reading. This story ranks high among the war novels and yet does not have too much of the horror incidents. The forced landing of a bomber in occupied France brought new experiences to the English crew who were sheltered in a farmhouse. The injured pilot, unable to escape with the others by the French Allies, found comfort in the development of a tender love affair. To take the mind off the war, Meet the Malones. There is never a dull moment in the motherless Malone family. The succession of problems brought to the council table with their widest day dreams reveal delightful experiences in family life. Quite a contrast to the London of today is that of Charles Lamb's time. Howe's book, Charles Lamb and His Friends, gives a vivid picture of London in the days when it was a small and cozy town and people knew one another and visited and enjoyed good talk and plain food and some drink on Wednesday evenings. Another novel promising choice reading for the history fan is Frances Gaither's The Red Cock Crows. The setting is in a Southern community of the early 19th century to which came a young teacher from Maine—a fellow to fall in love with the Southern belle, but not without difficulty. There are also new books for the children and teen-age readers. The schedule follows: Monday, June 26—10:00, Edward's Service Station; 10:30, Sherrad farm; 11:30, Hamilton Bank; 1:00, Oak City; 2:30, Smith's store (Palmyra road). (Continued on page four)

FLOOD CONTROL

A postwar project for flood control along the Roanoke River gained its first support in Congress this week when a proposed \$36,140,000 appropriation was included in the development program now under consideration in the House, according to a message just received here from Congressman Herbert Bonner. The proposed program calls for reservoirs on the Roanoke in Virginia and North Carolina and on the Smith River, a tributary in Virginia. Bitter fighting was reported in the Cherbourg area on the French invasion coast today as American forces launched a massive attack to wipe out the enemy in the great seaport, late reports stating that the battle was raging toward an explosive climax now that the enemy has refused to surrender and American big guns are trained on the city. The last ring of steel around the port has been cranked and just as soon as the field artillery completes its job, the infantry will move in for the final kill. It is estimated that there are 50,000 German troops and workers in the trap and there is no escape for them. For some reason hard to explain, the defenders refused to surrender at the request of General Eisenhower, one report stating that they had defied the request and had planted guns throughout the city for a street-by-street and house-to-house defense and almost certain suicide. During the meantime, British and Canadian forces are ably handling the situation at the base of the peninsula. The Pacific war came to the front again this week when a sea battle loomed as a possibility. The Jap fleet was reported to have been driven from its Philippine base toward the Marianas, and was attacked by carrier-based planes. At least fourteen Jap ships, including a battlewagon and four aircraft carriers, were sunk or damaged and nearly 400 enemy planes were downed by American airmen. The Japs turned tail and ran for shelter before a surface engagement could follow. It is estimated that there are 100 American plane carrier task forces are in range of Japan. The retreat of the Japs in the Philippine-Marianas area means that the enemy land forces on Saipan are in a bad plight, that reinforcements are just about out of the question. According to German reports, the Red Army has launched a big offensive on the Eastern Front in White Russian. The report has not been confirmed. The war in Finland is well under control, and since the Russian flank has been relieved there, other offensive are to be expected.

Last Rites Tuesday For Chas. Wilson Of The U. S. Navy

Local Young Colored Man Died Following Operation In Government Hospital

Funeral services were conducted from the colored Holiness Church here on the Jamesville Road last Tuesday afternoon for Seaman Chas. Ben Wilson, local colored young man who died last Friday following an operation in a government hospital at Hampton, Virginia. Elder Clemons, his pastor, conducted the last rites and interment followed in the Odd Fellows Cemetery here. The son of James and Delia Wilson, the young man was inducted into the Navy in May of last year. A complete record of his service could not be had immediately, but it was learned that he was on the U. S. S. New York for several months. Believed to have been taken ill about three months ago he was removed to the government hospital and later underwent an operation. It is not believed he was wounded, but the nature of his illness was not disclosed. His condition had been critical for several weeks. He is the second Martin County colored man to die while in the service of the country. Leo R. Wilson, of Everetts, having been killed in a bus accident on the way to an Army camp at Camp Lejeune, the first of the county to be buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery here May 21. Chas. B. Wilson, besides his wife, leaves his parents; four brothers, Buck, James Henry, C. B. and Jesse E. Wilson, and two sisters, Emma Mae Wilson and Frances Rogers.

Infant Dies In Local Hospital Last Saturday

Nancy Dail Bailey, eight days old, died in the local hospital last Saturday night. Funeral services were conducted at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Seth Bailey, in Bear Grass Township Sunday and interment followed in the Bailey Cemetery. The services were conducted by Elder B. S. Cowin. The baby had been ill only a few days with kidney trouble. Besides her parents she is survived by a brother, A. D. Bailey, and two sisters, Hilda and Shirley Bailey, of the home.

Wounded In Italy, Lt. Williams Home For A Brief Visit

Young Gold Point Man Badly Wounded in Both Legs And On Face

First Lieutenant Maurice Williams, wounded three times on the Anzio beachhead in Italy, arrived at his home in Gold Point last Friday after spending several weeks in the Valley Forge hospital in Phoenixville, Penna. Lt. Williams, son of Mr. J. L. Williams, of Gold Point, received shrapnel wounds on both legs in addition to a severe face wound bordering near the nose. Although one of Lt. Williams' leg wounds is still bandaged, he expects to return to the Pennsylvania hospital soon where all three of the wounds will be corrected with plastic surgery. The young man entered the service in June, 1941. He received his training in all sections of the country before he was shipped to the North African area. On the morning of March 5, 1944, he was wounded and in April was returned to this county. "While leading a platoon I was wounded on the beachhead at nine o'clock in the morning. I was not evacuated until 8 o'clock that night." (Continued on page four)

Americans Continue Stubborn Fight For Port Of Cherbourg

Jap Fleet Runs For Shelter After Losses Are Inflicted

Bitter fighting was reported in the Cherbourg area on the French invasion coast today as American forces launched a massive attack to wipe out the enemy in the great seaport, late reports stating that the battle was raging toward an explosive climax now that the enemy has refused to surrender and American big guns are trained on the city. The last ring of steel around the port has been cranked and just as soon as the field artillery completes its job, the infantry will move in for the final kill. It is estimated that there are 50,000 German troops and workers in the trap and there is no escape for them. For some reason hard to explain, the defenders refused to surrender at the request of General Eisenhower, one report stating that they had defied the request and had planted guns throughout the city for a street-by-street and house-to-house defense and almost certain suicide. During the meantime, British and Canadian forces are ably handling the situation at the base of the peninsula. The Pacific war came to the front again this week when a sea battle loomed as a possibility. The Jap fleet was reported to have been driven from its Philippine base toward the Marianas, and was attacked by carrier-based planes. At least fourteen Jap ships, including a battlewagon and four aircraft carriers, were sunk or damaged and nearly 400 enemy planes were downed by American airmen. The Japs turned tail and ran for shelter before a surface engagement could follow. It is estimated that there are 100 American plane carrier task forces are in range of Japan. The retreat of the Japs in the Philippine-Marianas area means that the enemy land forces on Saipan are in a bad plight, that reinforcements are just about out of the question. According to German reports, the Red Army has launched a big offensive on the Eastern Front in White Russian. The report has not been confirmed. The war in Finland is well under control, and since the Russian flank has been relieved there, other offensive are to be expected.

NEED VOLUNTEERS

An Urgent Call Is Being Sent Out from the Surgical Dressings Room for Extra Volunteer Workers. The War Department has given a certain quota to be completed and in medical depots before the end of the year. All dressings now on hand and quotas received during the next few months must be completed and shipped not later than November 30th, so a greater effort on the part of the volunteers must be made in order to meet the quota assigned to this area. If the assignment is not met, then the quota for this chapter will be cut. Shipment of a quota assignment thirty days after receipt of material should be the objective of every chapter. The Surgical Dressings Room is open each afternoon from two to four thirty and each night from eight until ten o'clock.

Officers Wreck Still Near Robersonville On Tuesday

Raiding two miles north of Robersonville Tuesday, Officers J. H. Roebuck and Roy Peel wrecked a liquor plant, destroying six fermenters and other equipment and pouring out 50 gallons of cheap beer. The plant had not been placed in operation.

Propose Ten-Cent Cut In County's Tax Rate

Over-All Budget Is Slightly Increased Over 1943 Figures

Rate for New Fiscal Year Is Fixed At \$1.10 by the Commissioners

Subject to final adoption at the next part of July or early August, a tax rate of \$1.10 the \$100 assessed property valuation was fixed for the new fiscal year, 1944-45, by the county commissioners in special session here this week. The rate, showing a ten-cent reduction, is the smallest enjoyed by property owners in this county in many years and continues to reflect a downward trend in the county taxing system. While the rate is ten cents below the one now in effect, the total budget estimates are slightly higher, but the increase in the proposed expenditures for the new fiscal year is offset by an estimated balance of \$5,817.76 anticipated at the end of the current tax year, by a gain of nearly one million dollars in personal property values and by an anticipated increase in revenues other than from general taxation. It was explained that the main source of revenue other than taxation is expected to flow from liquor profits. (Continued on page four)

WOOL SHIPMENT

Nearly two tons or 19,645 pounds of wool were received and loaded here last Monday and Tuesday in the first cooperative shipment ever handled here, it was announced yesterday by the office of the county agent. The wool netted the farmers \$6,577.33 and dividend checks are to be expected when sales are made from the cooperative pool, it was explained. Coming from the counties of Martin, Bertie, Chowan, Gates, Northampton, Pitt, Edgecombe, Nash, Halifax, Washington, Tyrrell, Beaufort and Hyde, the wool was sold by 195 farmers. German prisoners were used in packing the wool, the graders and workers continuing at their posts until 11 p. m. Monday and until 4:30 Tuesday afternoon.

Farmer Lester R. Meeks Reports Cotton Blossom

Farmer Lester R. Meeks, RFD 1, Robersonville, was the first man in the county to find and report a cotton blossom this season. Mailed under date of June 19, the blossom was of the pink variety. Farmer Dalton Brown of Robersonville, submitted four fresh cotton blossoms—two white and two red—this morning. (Continued on page four)

Large Lumber Stock And Kiln Valued At More Than \$20,000.

Firemen Driven Back by Fast-Burning Structure Early Wednesday Afternoon

Starting possibly from a spark from the exhaust of a tractor or an over-heated bearing, fire destroyed the large dry kiln and an estimated 150,000 feet of choice lumber at the Saunders and Cox lumber plant on East Main Street here early last Wednesday afternoon. The kiln was valued at about \$10,000 and the timber cannot be replaced for less than \$10,000, according to reliable estimates. Only \$10,000 insurance was carried on the properties. Receiving the call at 12 o'clock, firemen laid three lines of hose and fought the fire for more than two hours, their work preventing the fire from spreading to the firm's main plant, lumber sheds and lumber piles on the yard. The fire had a firm hold apparently before it was discovered, and was just before burning through the top when firemen and other volunteers took their positions. When the blaze broke through the top and sides, firemen were driven back, and at one time (Continued on page four)