

Peace Rumors Heard Following American Drive Into Germany

Belgium Freed and Allies in Holland; Russians Start New Offensive

Confusing and delayed reports coming from the European War Theater have been interpreted to mean that a move in the direction of peace there is in the making. Recognized news agencies have mentioned certain peace overtures, but they hastened to point out that they were rumors and could not be confirmed.

The first of the more recent peace rumors came out of Switzerland, a dispatch stating "that the German government has been making efforts to establish contact with Allied representatives in order to obtain a compromise peace." The move toward peace was described as the most serious to date. The peace proposal runs counter to the "unconditional surrender" ultimatum issued by the Allies, and it is likely that the Germans will have to return and come again. Following the Switzerland report, the Brussels radio was quoted this morning as saying that Germany has capitulated to the Allies. The source of the report could not be traced, and it was not given much credence in official quarters. It is possible that the Brussels radio meant the Germans had all but surrendered in the face of the powerful Allied push into Belgium over the week-end.

The position of the Allied armies in Europe is clothed in secrecy. It is quite certain that the powerful drive has been extended into Holland, and rumors maintain that the Allies, possibly General Patton's smashing forces, had driven two miles into Germany, that they were storming the Siegfried line.

On the strength of developments on the Western Front it is hard to understand how Germany can hold out much longer. In Southern France the Allies have moved 65 miles beyond Lyons, France's third largest city. The Canadians and British have the rocket coast under control, the maneuvers there cutting off thousands of Germans.

On the Italian front, Hitler's Gothic line is wavering, late reports stating that advances, fourteen miles deep, had been made on a twenty-mile front.

The Russians, after centering their work in the Balkan areas, have renewed their activities in the Warsaw sector. The initial drive after the lull there netted 13,000 German dead, but it was not quite clear whether the action would mark a renewal of a general offensive all along the Eastern Front, a drive to liberate battle-torn Warsaw or mark the beginning of a drive toward Berlin. Military observers, paying little attention to peace rumors, are of the opinion that the "pay-off" in this war will come as a result of the action now getting underway on the Polish Front. It has been argued that one more big battle is necessary to the removal of the last barriers to peace.

In the Pacific, especial attention is being given to the clearing of a path for a drive to the Philippines. More ships have been sunk in recent days in that area and the Bonin and Volcano bases have been blasted by (Continued on page six)

County Authorities In Regular Meeting

With very little business on their calendar, the Martin County commissioners yesterday held one of their shortest sessions in recent months. The session was adjourned before noon. Commissioners Perry, Coltrain, Roberson and Haislip were present for the meeting.

The commissioners authorized the county account to make corrections in tax accounts where errors are evident.

M. L. Peel was reappointed tax collector for the new tax year.

A salary of \$25 a week was fixed for Mrs. Richard Smith, applications clerk, who works in the Martin County War Price and Rationing Board office.

The Welfare Department listed its expenditures for August at \$5,687.21, the county paying \$2,864.19 as its part.

The new 1944-45 tax books were not turned over to the collector at the meeting, but a special session will be held later this month when the records will be audited and the new accounts are charged against the collector.

The new tax books have been completed and the notices are being made ready for the mails.

Two Suits For Divorce Are Filed In Superior Court

Two divorce suits, both based on two years of separation, were filed in the Martin County Superior Court last week. One was started by Luzetta Knight against Jonah Knight and the other by Lillie Rogers against Octavius Rogers.

Tobacco Sales Are Well Over Half Million Pounds To Date

After holding to an unusually low level during the first week of the marketing season, tobacco sales started jumping in size on the local market today. Early estimates placed the poundage for today at close to 275,000 and the leaf was still moving in to the warehouses at 11 o'clock this morning. The market will possibly end the sales with a small amount of leaf unsold, but the block will not be of any great size.

Prices for the most part are holding firm and 47-cent piles are possibly more numerous today than they have been at any time so far this season.

Last Friday, the market sold approximately 154,000 pounds, the largest sale of the season up until today. The price average still holds to a figure between 42 and 43 cents a pound, and farmers are still gratified with their sales.

With few exceptions the harvest season is being completed in the county this week, and it is quite likely that the laborious task will be completed in its entirety next week. Those farmers who have completed the harvest and curing, are now busy preparing the leaf for the market, and it is generally believed that the volume of sales will steadily climb from day to day.

A report on the first week sales in the belt states that the poundage offered for sale during the period was the smallest in many years. There were 16,156,716 pounds sold in the belt the first week for an average of \$42.03. Last year, when the opening week consisted of only four sales days, 28,892,000 pounds were sold at an average of \$38.66.

A government report states that dealers and manufacturers now hold 365,310,000 pounds of bright flue-cured leaf on hand as compared with 435,310,000 pounds in storage a year ago.

MEETINGS

Preparatory to the opening of the public schools in this county on Monday, September 18th, education authorities are planning a series of pre-school meetings, including a county-wide gathering of teachers here on Thursday, September 14. Incidentally, the teachers' pay will start as of that date and checks will be issued for the first month two weeks after that date, it was said.

Thursday afternoon of this week, representatives from several schools in the county will meet here to formulate plans for the county-wide meeting to be held on the 14th. The principals will hold their meeting on Wednesday, September 13.

Nine Marriages Are Reported In County During Past Month

Issuance Is Smallest For Any August Since Depression Year of 1932

Nine marriage licenses were issued in this county last month, the number of recorded marriages in that period being the smallest for any August since the depression year of 1932 when seven licenses were issued. For the second consecutive month, only one marriage license was issued to white applicants. Not since July, 1931, had the number of white marriages recorded in this county reached such an inconsequential low figure.

In a few instances, Martin County parties married outside the county last month, but even then Cupid has made little progress under existing war conditions in recent weeks. In the year before the outbreak of war in 1941, there were 226 recorded marriages in the county. Each year the number has dwindled, and it is now fairly apparent that a new record low will be reached this year. So far this year only 118 marriage licenses have been issued in this county.

Licenses were sold last month to the one white and eight colored couples, as follows:

White
Irving Bennett and Pattie Modlin, both of Williamston.
Colored
William C. Jenkins and Pattie Broadie, both of Hassell.
James Earl Purvis and Willet Wilson, both of Robersonville.
William Henry Bryant and Rosa Clark, both of Palmyra.
Luther Spruill and Ruth Reddick Page, both of Williamston.
William Reddick, RFD 2, Williamston, and Elnora Jones, of Williamston.

M. C. Lawrence, of Oak City, and Ella Purvis, RFD, Williamston.
Earma Staton, of Oak City, and Beatrice Williams, of Hamilton.

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County Board Buys Home In Jamesville

The Martin County Board of Education recently purchased the Hardison home and all its furnishings for \$6,200 in Jamesville. The property is to be used as a teacherage for the school there.

Arrangements are being made to open and maintain the home during the coming school term, it was announced.

Farmer Ralph Taylor Loses Tobacco Barn

Farmer Ralph Taylor lost a barn packed with tobacco on his farm near here last week. It was about the 22nd barn destroyed by fire in the county this season.

Tobacco Barn Fire Is Checked By Hard Work

More than twenty tobacco barns have been destroyed by fire in the county this season, and another one was nearly lost by fire last week. Farmer Lucian Hardison and neighbors saved a barn on his farm last week after much of the tobacco and one gable in the barn had burned. "We saved it by hard work," Mr. Hardison explained.

MARTIN COUNTY In WORLD WAR I

(Reviewed from old Enterprise files twenty-seven years ago)

May 24, 1918.

Never in the history of Martin County has there been such a scene as that enacted here yesterday, when a magnificently planned and executed Red Cross parade formed on the high school campus, and led by Asa J. Manning mounted on a horse and carrying a large United States flag, marched up Main Street to Elm, thence to Houghton and up to Simmons Avenue, down Smithwick to the Main again and ending at the Brick Warehouse.

Private Ronald Campbell, an American who has just returned from France, and who was sent here by the Red Cross to address the mass meeting, seated in a car with several citizens, followed and immediately behind came the Macclesfield band in full dress; next came in order the Home Guards, High School girls, Junior Red Cross of the High School here, Martin County chapter's float exhibiting Red Cross work room, Hamilton Auxiliary's float with soldiers and nurses, Oak City float with Red Cross workers.

At 8:30 p. m., the Brick Warehouse was packed to the doors to listen to Private Ronald Campbell, who was presented to the audience by W. R. Burrell; the audience sang "America," and then every eye was on the speaker, who talked interestingly of his experience in the war. He went over to France to drive an ambulance before the U. S. went in. He had with him German gas masks, rifle, pistols, machine gun, bayonets, which he had taken from the enemy and exhibited stereopticon slides. Appeals were made to increase the fund, and dozens responded. Dr. Biggs announced that \$7,500 had been given, and the apportionment was only \$1,500.

May 31, 1918.

Charles S. Biggs has enlisted in the Marines this week. Robert S. Biggs, who has been at Camp McClellan, Anniston, Ala., has left there (Continued on page six)

Ten Thousand More Surgical Dressings Need To Be Folded

Starting out several weeks ago with 50,400 surgical dressings to be prepared for use by the armed forces the local Red Cross room with the help of willing volunteers at Jamesville, Bear Grass and Hamilton has reduced that number to about ten thousand, according to a check made after the project was closed last night until this afternoon.

Approximately fifty persons found time to visit the room since last Thursday afternoon, but it is strikingly apparent that the room is not receiving the support it should get. To be perfectly frank, it is disheartening to those who make every effort to visit the room as often as possible to see the same old crowds, their heads hanging high, moving to the amusement centers and never finding time to darken the bandage room door to help in a work that is designed to help relieve suffering humanity.

The little group at the bandage room last night prepared 1,000 bandages. It is possible for an increased number of volunteers to move in and complete the task this week. Quite a few local people are doing their part in the war effort in other ways, but there are others who could well afford to volunteer and help complete the surgical dressings project.

Nine volunteers reported at the bandage room opened in Hamilton yesterday. No report has been received on the progress there, but Mrs. J. B. Taylor who went there yesterday to help start the work is confident that the task will be handled rapidly. Jamesville and Bear Grass are still working on their quotas, and it is now hoped that the project will be completed by the middle of the month.

The names of those reporting to the room here since last Thursday afternoon follow:

Thursday night: Mesdames M. M. Levin, B. S. Courtney, Carl Wynne, Delmas Barnhill, and J. H. Edwards and Misses Evelyn Wynne and Ethel Guest.

Friday afternoon: Mesdames J. D. Page, Harcum Grimes, Travis Kitchen, Dean Spruill, Luther Peel, Jack Hardison, and Frank Weaver.

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County Young Man Writes from France

Writing to his mother, Mrs. Lewenda Mobley, RFD 3, Williamston, Pvt. LeRoy Mobley who is now in France, said in part:

"Today is Sunday and it is a very beautiful day here. I went to church this morning. We have service in a tent and sat on the ground. I enjoyed it very much. There are many boys attending church here every Sunday."

"I haven't received any mail since I have been over here. Maybe I will get some next week. The people over here are very nice to us even if we can't understand them. When we go through a town they wave to us like a bunch of kids. There isn't much left of their homes and towns. We have very warm days but the nights are cool."

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

Motorists on Martin County highways and streets traveled through the first week of the marketing season virtually unscathed. The record was possibly best for a first week in the marketing season in recent years. Sales were light and apparently the "week of wrecks" was postponed. Then, too, there aren't any new cars and few seconds moving into the highways now.

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.

35th Week Comparison		Accidents In'd Killed Dam'ge	
1944	1943	0	0
1	0	0	205
2	1	0	50
Comparison To Date		1944	1943
45	23	1	8050
31	15	5	4825

Land in This County Leased This Week To Standard Oil Company And Others For Oil Prospecting

Town Commissioners Vote To Purchase A New Fire Truck

With very little business on their calendar, the local town commissioners in a short session last evening discussed the need for new fire-fighting equipment and voted to buy a new truck. Tentative specifications were studied, but details will be handled with a special factory representative, possibly within the next few days.

On a motion offered by Commissioner V. D. Godwin and seconded by Commissioner L. P. Lindsay, the board voted to purchase a Model 75 Mack Truck. Costing \$7,826, the new machine has a pumping capacity of 750 gallons per minute and is powered by a 165-horsepower motor. The cost is for the truck completely equipped with the exception of hose and nozzles, meaning that the complete job including hose will call for an expenditure of approximately \$10,000. Priorities will have to be obtained before the order can be accepted by the company, but it is believed delivery can be effected in about 120 days.

The commissioners were first in favor of purchasing a 500-gallon pumper costing \$5,000 equipped except for hose, but a majority voted in favor of the larger machine.

The old truck now in operation was purchased in 1928, or about sixteen years ago, and cost \$11,500 without hose and minor equipment. The volunteer firemen have managed to answer most calls with it, but on several occasions it had to be pulled in for repairs, and at various times it has been out of commission for short periods.

Respected Farmer Dies at Home Near Here Last Friday

Funeral Services Are Held Sunday Afternoon For Mr. J. S. Meeks

John Sam Meeks, respected citizen and industrious farmer, died at his home near Williamston on the old Everetts Road last Friday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock following a long period of declining health. He suffered a light stroke six years ago and a second one about two years ago. He partially recovered from both strokes and was able to attend to a few minor duties around the home and farm. On August 25 he was attending to a few minor duties near the house and fell, the victim of a third stroke from which he never rallied.

The son of the late Marion and Nancy Moore Meeks, he was born near Robersonville on November 4, 1859. He spent his early life in that section and on the farm. He lived and farmed in the Hamilton section one year and following his marriage to Miss Martha Bowen nearly sixty years ago he located near Williamston where he continued to farm, proving himself a good neighbor and one who held the respect of his fellowman. Mr. Meeks was a member of the Primitive Baptist Church for nearly half a century, his life reflecting the teachings of the late Elder Sylvester Hassell. He was faithful to the church, attending services regularly and seldom missing a chance to worship somewhere every Sunday as long as he was able.

Following the death of his first wife about 25 years ago, he was married to Mrs. Maggie Bullock Keel who survives. He leaves no children by either marriage, but he is survived by a brother, Mr. Jim Meeks, of Robersonville; three step-children, Wm. Ashley Keel of Scotland Neck; Mrs. Jasper Smith, of Portsmouth, and Mrs. Donald McDiarmid, of Ashland, Kentucky; eight (Continued on page six)

Name Principal For Bear Grass School

D. F. Giles, experienced school man and well known in education circles in North Carolina, has formally accepted the principalship of the Bear Grass school, it was announced last week-end. Mr. Giles, a graduate of the University of North Carolina, was in the county last week-end making ready to move into the teacherage at Bear Grass. Mrs. Giles, also well known in education and civic circles in the State, will teach the fifth grade.

Retiring from the school room some years ago, Mr. Giles, recognizing the need for teachers, returned to the profession and taught in Chadbourn last year. During his long service in the field of education, Mr. Giles was superintendent of schools in Wake County and later in Morganton and still later he was connected with the State Board of Education.

The election of Mr. Giles to the faculty leaves five positions to be filled. Applications for most of the five positions are being considered, it was learned. The following elections were recently reported: Miss Lucy Mat Crofton, second grade; Mrs. Grace Ayers, third; Mrs. Cox, fourth grade; Mrs. D. F. Giles, fifth grade, and Mr. Giles, principal and high school teacher.

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Lieut. S. W. Manning Gets Coveted Award

An Eighth Air Force Bomber Station, England—1st Lieutenant Simon W. Manning, of Williamston, N. C., 24-year-old pilot of the Eighth Air Force B-17 Flying Fortress "The Eagle's Wrath," has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for "extraordinary achievement" while participating in the massive air assault against military and industrial targets in Nazi-held territory.

The son of Mrs. S. W. Manning, of Williamston, the flyer has previously been awarded the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters. His wife, Mrs. Anne Manning, is also a resident of Williamston.

A former self-employed service station operator, Lt. Manning enlisted in the AAF in August, 1941. He received his pilot's training at Fort Sumner, New Mexico, and was awarded his wings and commission in August, 1943.

Arthur Perry Added To The Local Police Force

Appointed by Chief of Police Chas. R. Mobley just recently, Arthur Perry, former local man who returned home a short time ago following a long residence in Brooklyn, entered upon his new duties as a member of the local police force last night. He is the third member of the night force.

Revival Is Announced For Siloam Methodist Church

Rev. R. N. Pitts of Stonewall will conduct a series of revival services in the Siloam Methodist Church beginning next Monday night, September 11, it was announced. The public is invited.

Exploration Rights Leased At Rate Of Ten Cents An Acre

H. H. Cowen and Will Perkins Are First To Have Their Leases Recorded

Several hundred acres of swamp land belonging to H. H. Cowen and Will Perkins and thousands of other acres controlled by the State have been leased to oil companies or prospecting individuals, it was learned this week from the office of register of deeds where three leases were filed for recording yesterday. It is understood that other leases are pending in this county, but those covering the Cowen and Perkins lands and property owned or controlled by the State were the first to be recorded in this county.

Exploration rights were based on a flat rental of ten cents an acre, the lessors to share one-eighth of the proceeds, if any, gained from the sale of oil from the lands.

The terms of the leases, one filed by the Standard Oil Company and the other by A. J. Kellogg, of Dallas, Texas, are similar. The Kellogg lease, covering 226 acres of the Cowen land and 500 acres of the Perkins land located about three miles northwest of Williamston, calls for drilling within one year, on those lands or on lands pooled by the lessee. The Standard Oil lease allows eighteen months and further stipulates that the lease is to sink a well at least 5,000 feet, if necessary, before abandoning the project. The leases are to run ten years, but if no test wells are sunk within the stipulated time, the leases must be renewed at the end of the first year in the case of the Kellogg lease.

The Standard Oil Company, it is understood, has procured leases on thousands of acres of State-owned or controlled river and lake bottoms. Most of the other leases cover exploration rights on swamplands northwest of Williamston. The big leases cover lands to the southeast of Williamston are confined in an area bordered on the south by Washington and running east to the Atlantic Ocean, including several counties.

It could not be learned here who Kellogg was representing. It is possible that he is representing a company of his own or that he is an agent for other oil firms.

Several representatives have contacted landowners in this section, seeking leases, but only three agreements have been filed so far in this county for recording in the office of the register of deeds.

The prospect of finding oil in eastern North Carolina has occasioned much talk in some sections, but little public attention has been given it in this county.

It is quite likely that other landowners will grant the prospectors leases in the county during the next few weeks.

Board Allots Sixty Tires Last Friday

Sixty tires, fifty-three for passenger cars and seven for small trucks, were allotted by the Martin County War Price and Rationing Board last Friday night. No tires for large trucks were allotted.

Grade I tires were issued to the following:

Raleigh Lilley, C. H. Ange, Russell Williams, Thurman Williams, Velma Bailey, Mrs. Dorca C. Rawls, W. R. Griffin, Henry Modlin, Vernon Phelps, G. C. Jones, J. J. Whitley, Cortez Green, Willis Williams, King Tobacco Company, J. K. Roberson, Mrs. John Henry Roberson, Jr., S. T. Wynne, John Chance, Wheeler Rogerson, Dr. John Williams, L. H. Rawls, S. L. Ellis, J. Carl Griffin, R. L. Coburn, Archie T. Coltrain, Marcellus House, J. V. Andrews, R. B. Jones, Cecil G. Leggett, John Biggs, C. M. Anderson, N. W. Worsley, P. M. Holliday, Lemuel McCoy Roebuck, L. A. Weaver, A. L. Harrison, Clyde Brown, Jeannie Gardner, J. D. Leggett.

Small truck tires were released to the following:

Pete Mendenhall, H. G. Harrison, Leslie J. Griffin, H. R. Worsley, A. B. Ores and J. L. Coltrain.

Packhouse And Tobacco Burn In Oak City Fire

Nan Council, colored farmer, lost his packhouse and three barns of tobacco at his home in Oak City last Wednesday. The fire started in the hay loft, but its origin could not be determined. No insurance was carried on the property, according to reports reaching here.

Autos Damaged In Main Street Wreck

No one was badly hurt but damage estimated at \$200 resulted when two cars figured in a head-on collision on West Main Street about 9 o'clock last Sunday night.

Haywood Woodrow Gardner, driving George Gardner's Ford, was going west and Boot Wilson of near Hassell was driving east on the street when the cars crashed. George Gardner, passenger in the Ford, was slightly cut on the nose. Kader Rawls, Letha Gardner and B. Moore, other passengers in the Gardner car, were not hurt. Wilson was accompanied by Maggie Page, Selma and Velma Page and Clarice Hope.

A hearing was scheduled before Justice J. L. Hassell.

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