

Farmers Name Their Triple A Officials at Meetings Last Week

Crisp, Griffin and Martin Are Elected to County AAA Committee Saturday

Meeting at various points throughout the county this week, Martin County farmers named their Triple A community committees for the coming year and named delegates to a county meeting held here last Saturday for the election of a county committee. Only 213 out of a possible 2,000 farmers participated in the elections and for the most part the voting was without interest. Bear Grass held a "hot" election, on Wednesday night, according to reports, but the results were accepted and harmony continues to reign. A few changes were made in the committees, but for the most part the personnel was re-elected, the new set-up including a veteran of World War II.

Meeting in the agricultural building Saturday, the county delegates elected Jesse F. Crisp, chairman; Geo. C. Griffin, vice chairman; C. C. Martin, member; H. H. Roberson, first alternate, and D. R. Edmondson, second alternate. Mr. Crisp succeeds himself as chairman, and the alternates succeed themselves. Mr. Griffin is succeeding J. R. Winslow, and Mr. Martin succeeds C. G. Gurkin.

Below are the committee appointments, the name of the community chairman appearing first, that of the vice chairman appearing second, regular member next, first alternate next, and second alternate next in line. The last name in each group is that of the delegate to the county meeting.

Jamestown No. 2: C. G. Gurkin, Elmer Modlin, Leo Gardner, Joe Martin, Wilmer Ange and C. G. Gurkin.

Jamestown No. 1: H. A. Sexton, Carl Griffin, Howard Hardison, Clarence Barber, H. L. Gardner and C. C. Martin.

Williams: C. L. Daniel, R. J. Hardison, Walter Gardner, L. J. Hardison, O. S. Green and C. L. Daniel.

Griffins: Geo. C. Griffin, Asa J. Hardison, L. H. Roberson, W. T. Roberson, S. E. Manning and Geo. C. Griffin.

Bear Grass: H. Gomer Harrison, H. U. Peel, T. L. Roberson, Ralph Mobley, E. C. Harrison and H. G. Harrison.

Williamston-Poplar Point: Fred Taylor, Mayo Hardison, J. W. Gurkin, N. D. Griffin, Ben H. James and S. C. Griffin.

Cross Roads: Willie Ausbon, Garland Forbes, J. F. Bailey, H. L. Roe.

(Continued on page six)

Mrs. Alexander Died In County On Friday

Mrs. Pattie Kiester Alexander, 63, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. C. B. Ayers near Williamston at 6:30 o'clock last Friday night after a week of critical illness. Funeral services were conducted from the home of her daughter, Mrs. Ayers, at 2:30 Sunday afternoon by the Rev. J. M. Perry, Robersonville minister, and burial was in the Strickland Cemetery in Pitt County.

Mrs. Alexander was born and reared in Bell Arthur, and was first married to Mr. Jesse Fulford of Pitt County. She lived in Bell Arthur until 1913, and then she moved to Martin County. After Mr. Fulford's death in 1922, she was later married to Frank Alexander of Martin County, who died in 1932. She was a member of the Eighth Street Christian Church of Greenville. For the past two years she had been living in Greenville at 519 Greene Street.

Surviving are three sons: Jennis and Richard Fulford of Norfolk, Va., and T/Sgt. Jesse Fulford of the U. S. Army, now overseas; three daughters, Mrs. Sallie Ayers and Mrs. Ethel Leggett, of near Williamston; and Mrs. Louise Raynor of near Oak City; 18 grandchildren; two brothers, E. S. and Richard Strickland, of Bell Arthur; and one sister, Mrs. Jerry R. Nichols, of Bell Arthur.

County Young Man Seriously Wounded

Reported seriously ill in a hospital in New Guinea a short time ago, Pvt. James E. Moore was "seriously wounded in action on Leyte" in the Philippines last October 28, his mother, Mrs. Lula A. Gardner, was advised in a second telegram just received here. The nature of his wounds and other details were not given, but it was stated that the 32-year-old county man was making normal improvement.

The first message stated that he was in the hospital and that he was receiving the best possible attention.

Pvt. Moore, son of Mrs. Gardner and the late Claude Moore, had been in foreign service about two years, leaving this country shortly after he was inducted into the Army.

He is the first man from this county to have been reported wounded in the Leyte campaign.

Over Four Thousand Registered for Liquor Rations in County

Over 4,000 books have been issued here and that not a single complaint has been heard. The applicants waited in line for their turn, paid their 25-cent registration fee, and smiled one of those broad smiles when they received their little coupon books. Some complaints were heard, but they came from those who were denied books because they had been convicted in the courts for alleged crime violations of one kind or another. The ineligible numbered some over 200, it was estimated.

At the registration center here, possibly 60 per cent or more of the registrants were women, and most of the women were colored. Of the remaining forty per cent, possibly slightly more than half were colored men.

The big registration is now on, and it is believed that some will miss the ration list between now and Thursday afternoon of this week when the registration closes at five o'clock until after January 1.

One of the registrars said yesterday following a long period of little activity, the local registration center yesterday had its greatest rush of the month when over 300 people lined up for their rations, the day's business pushing the total to slightly over 3,000. No official report could be had immediately from the registration center in Robersonville, but the total there will approximate 1,500, it was estimated. About a week ago, the registration in Robersonville stood at about 800, and since that time the applicants have been reporting in increasing numbers.

'E' Bond Drive Third Completed In County

PURPLE HEART

The Purple Heart award, earned by Cpl. Roger "Kitty" Riddick, was received by the young man's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Riddick, in Everetts last week-end. The Purple Heart was awarded for wounds received by the young man in France on September 10th.

In a hospital somewhere in England, Cpl. Riddick met Jerry Langley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle Langley, a short time ago. Young Riddick, in a letter to his parents, declared they had a great time talking about home.

Almost recovered from his wounds, Cpl. Riddick is expecting to be returned to his company some time in early December.

Large Number Tires Allotted In County

One hundred and twenty-two tires—ninety-six for passenger cars and twenty-six for light trucks—were released by the Martin County War Price and Rationing Board last Friday night.

Grade I tires were issued to the following:

Fenner Respass, F. L. Haislip, J. C. Rawls, Jr., J. L. Whitfield, David Gurganus, William S. Powell, Mary Stader, Nat G. Ellis, W. R. Banks, Lester Cherry, H. W. Modlin, John A. Ward, Jr., Archie Mobley, Ace Tom Taylor, M. E. Hyman, Howard H. Hopkins, P. M. Holliday, Ophelus Bailey, Mrs. Ada Roebuck, Mervin A. Bonds, June Bland, Mrs. Lydia Gurkin, W. K. Ward, M. L. Wynne, E. H. Manning, F. S. Scott, W. S. Leggett, Mrs. W. S. Malory, Willie Spruill, Brasco Knox, R. M. Taylor, Willie Jones, J. B. Biggs, Claud Simmons, Namon Whitaker, Tom Cranford, Robert Leggett, S. T. Everett, J. L. Mobley, Walter Bailey, W. F. Coltrane, Harrison Land, Harry Jones, H. O. Gurganus, D. B. Mobley, E. L. Glover, Simon Rogers, W. S. Mobley, W. J. Hardison, Mrs. Nora Downs, F. C. Williams, R. R. Turner, Ida O. Roberts, E. R. Turner, Mrs. Edmond Harris, E. R. Turner, Harry Williams, William Fields, R. A. Critcher, Mayo Moore, S. T. Wynne, William H. Whitfield, R. A. Roebuck, Mrs. Guy Napier, J. E. Stroud, Elbert Rawls, L. H. Matthews, A. W. VanNortwick, R. Sherrod Corey, Henry C. Green, C. C. Hollis, T. A. Weaver, Frank Weaver, Robert R. Barnhill, Aubrey Gurganus, W. V. Ormond, Ernest Jenkins, Lee R. White, Jim Corey, Charlie Bradley, Ben A. Jones, Willie Williams, J. C. Norris.

Small truck tires were released to the following:

Farmville-Woodward Lumber Co., John David Williams, John W. Corey, William F. Crawford, Archie Latham, Luther M. Cratt, C. O. Edwards, Nathan E. Roberson, R. L. Pierce, C. W. Gurkin, William Perkins, L. B. Cherry, Jasper C. Griffin, G. D. Grimes, Jr., M. T. Gardner.

Boy Scouts Enjoy Outing on Roanoke

Thirty-five local Boy Scouts had a great time last Friday, Saturday, and Sunday when they "roughed" it at the Owl's Club on the Roanoke River.

Despite a threatened ration shortage the last day, the youths, directed by Scout Leaders Joe Huske, Ben Courtney and H. F. McKnight, greatly enjoyed the three-day outing. The ration shortage was alleviated when the boys demanded a change in the kitchen personnel. It was complained that the cooks were big eaters, that by making the last-minute change, no one went hungry.

The Scouts had planned to camp on the Pamlico, but the quarters there had been closed.

Asking Citizens Of The County To Aid Control Inflation

Pledges Delivered to Number Of Grocers in County This Week

In a special plea issued on a nation-wide basis a few days ago, the government earnestly urged all Martin County people to renew their efforts in the fight against inflation. Briefly stated, we are being asked to help in the Grocer-Consumer Anti-Inflation Campaign "by frank and friendly adherence to our ceiling price program."

Pledges and posters have been delivered to many of the grocery stores during the past few days. These pledges show that the merchant is interested in inflation control, that he is willing and is trying to do his part in holding down prices. Most of the stores, a check shows, have signed the pledges and posted them in their stores.

"Grocers are carrying out the new pricing methods as part of their contribution to the success of the current campaign. It is another demonstration of the grocer's adherence to legal ceiling prices. His customer has a responsibility, too—to make use of the lists in order to satisfy herself that the prices she pays are within the legal limits.

"Together, grocers and their customers can probably do more than any other groups in the country to restrain runaway prices, because the average family spends more for food than for any other essential—about 40 cents out of every dollar."

In the inflation period after the first World War, sugar was 27 cents a pound, lard 42 cents, and coffee 49 cents, and eggs 92 cents a dozen. A repetition of such skyrocketing prices is what the Government is now trying to prevent. The only way it can be prevented is by the public's undertaking to make price control effective.

One Township Over The Top; Williams Is In Sight Of Quota

Bond Picture Not So Bright in Williamston and Cross Roads Townships

After getting off to a fairly good start the first few days, the Sixth War Bond Drive really zoomed up over the latter part of last week and early this week when eight of the ten townships made very encouraging reports. The sale of "E" bonds jumped from \$37,481.25 last Friday to \$85,405.50 late yesterday. Approximately 35 per cent of the "E" bond quota has been raised, and it is fairly apparent that the goal will be reached and passed if the good people of this county do not lie down on the job.

Superior Court In Second Week Here

Opening the second period of a two weeks term here yesterday, the Martin County Superior Court, handling civil cases only, spent a greater part of the day hearing the evidence in the Stevenson will case. Arguments to the jury and the suit brought to the jury by Judge Johnson are likely to take up much of the court's time today and few other cases will hardly be called. Adjudgement for the term is not to be expected before Thursday.

In the will case, four of the younger children of the late Mrs. Mary Stevenson were awarded all the property. Six of the older children filed a caveat and are asking that the paper be set aside, claiming a lack of mental capacity and undue influence. The estate is reportedly worth \$15,000.

No judgment had been entered in the minutes early today, but it was reported that the \$20,000 damage suit brought by Luther Pilgreen, administrator of James Garland Pilgreen, against S. A. Wallace and Charlie Spruill, had been settled out of court, the plaintiff receiving \$2,400. James Garland Pilgreen, young white boy, was killed in an auto-truck accident near Stokes early this year.

Accidentally Shoots Himself In The Leg

Henry Jones, proprietor of Mickey's Inn, about two miles west of Williamston on U. S. Highway 64, was painfully but not seriously shot when a bullet was accidentally fired from a .38 calibre pistol in his place of business about 9 o'clock last evening.

Jones, about 48 years of age, was reaching for a paper bag on a shelf back of the counter and accidentally knocked the weapon to the floor. The pistol was caused to fire when it struck the floor, the bullet going in to and lodging in the man's left thigh. He told patrons in the filling station that he had been shot and they reached him just in time to keep him from falling to the floor. Removed to the local hospital, Jones was reported to be getting along very well today.

Boy Scouts Enjoy Outing on Roanoke

Thirty-five local Boy Scouts had a great time last Friday, Saturday, and Sunday when they "roughed" it at the Owl's Club on the Roanoke River.

Despite a threatened ration shortage the last day, the youths, directed by Scout Leaders Joe Huske, Ben Courtney and H. F. McKnight, greatly enjoyed the three-day outing. The ration shortage was alleviated when the boys demanded a change in the kitchen personnel. It was complained that the cooks were big eaters, that by making the last-minute change, no one went hungry.

The Scouts had planned to camp on the Pamlico, but the quarters there had been closed.


Tobacco Market Closing Most Successful Year November 30

Last June, a tobacco warehouse could have been rented for a nominal sum. The tobacco crop at that time was the poorest possibly on record, some farmers actually offering to sell out for the exact cost of the fertilizer buried in the ground. There were no buyers, and actually some said they would not give 25 cents an acre in some instances. The rains came later and changed the picture. Possibly some crops did not recover, but as a whole this county produced a great crop. The farmers could not plant all their allotment, but for the acreage they did plant, they harvested the most and received the greatest amount of money ever known.

Despite the early gloomy outlook for a crop, the Williamston market is closing at the end of sales on Thursday of this week the most successful season in its history. Com-

Monk Critcher Shoots Down Six Jap Planes

ACE CRITCHER



With seven planes, six certain and one almost certain, to his credit, Burras A. (Monk) Critcher, Jr., is leading the way for this part of the State as an ace in the Navy Air Corps.

French Reported To Have Crossed Rhine

According to unofficial reports coming from the Western Front this morning, the French have crossed the Rhine at one point three miles north of Strasbourg. The feat is still secondary to the bitter struggle still raging without letup in the area west of Cologne where the American and British are still maintaining a powerful offensive in an effort to reach the open plains before Cologne.

The weather is exacting its toll, but despite that the current drive is still recognized as an all-out attempt to crush the German might and determine the end of the war before long, possibly by Christmas or the first of the year.

The American Ninth Army has broken through the enemy's Roer River defense line and are driving on Julich after taking four other towns in that area, including Weisweiler. Farther to the South and east of Metz, the U. S. Third Army is leading the enemy back toward the Saar.

The air fight over Germany reached a new high this week when the Allies, shooting down 200 planes, scored an eight-to-one victory.

The Russians in Hungary are bogged down in snow, but they have about reduced the bulge in their long Eastern Front.

Over in the Philippine area, the Americans are still sending Jap ships to the bottom in great numbers. Fighting on Leyte is almost bogged down in torrential rains, leaving the two recent raids on Tokyo to hold the spotlight in the big news coming from that area in the past few days.

Allied merchant ship losses since 1939 have been placed at 5,758, including 750 American freighters.

Firemen Called To Home Near Here Last Saturday

Starting from a spark, fire badly damaged the roof and threatened a large two-story tenant house on the W. T. Ross farm just off the Washington Highway, a little over a mile from here last Saturday about 1:30 o'clock.

Neighbors saw the fire and several persons were making a noble effort to put the fire out when the town's fire-fighting apparatus reached there. The fire, while confined to the room, was making right much headway but it was brought under control. Damage to the house was roughly estimated at \$200.

AIR MEDAL

The Air Medal, earned by S/ Sgt. R. J. Hardison for a "daring act," the nature of which has not been disclosed, was presented to the young man's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hardison, here yesterday morning by an Army lieutenant whose name could not be learned.

Young Hardison was shot down in a raid over Austria last May 10. He was reported missing on May 28, and on June 26 he was reported a prisoner of war of the Germans. The last direct communication from the young man was written to his parents early in July.

Williamston Native Dies Suddenly At Home In New York

Funeral Will Be Held Here Tomorrow For Ameleck Campbell Roberson

Ameleck Campbell Roberson, Williamston native and retired mechanic, died suddenly at his home on Staten Island, New York, Sunday night, the apparent victim of a heart attack. He had been in declining health for several years, and suffered a heart attack while visiting relatives here several weeks ago. After receiving treatment in the local hospital he was able to be up and he went to Portsmouth to visit his daughter, continuing a short time later to his home in New York where he was believed to be getting along very well until he was stricken a short time before the end.

The son of the late John H. and Mary Etta Williams Roberson, he was born in Williamston 62 years ago. In early manhood he was married to Miss Lucy Frye, and later moved to Edenton where they made their home for ten or twelve years before locating in Drivers, Va., where he was mechanical superintendent for a large plantation. Ill health forced his retirement several years ago and he with Mrs. Roberson went to New York to make their home. Yearning for his old home and friends, he returned to Williamston some months ago for a long visit in the home of his sister, Mrs. T. C. Cooke. He apparently enjoyed recalling the old times when on account of his good nature the boys would impose upon him. Not so long ago he discussed some of the pranks with his old friends and would laugh heartily. Accommodating and most congenial, he had many friends here in his early life, but many of them have passed on.

Besides his sister here and widow, he is survived by five children, two sons, William Roberson, of the U. S. Merchant Marine and who was called for emergency duty about the time of his father's death, and Jerry Roberson of the home; three daughters, Mrs. A. H. Lankford of New York; Mrs. W. M. Alexander, of Portsmouth, and Miss Emily Roberson, a student at Meredith College, Raleigh, a brother, Jos. A. Roberson, of Williamston.

The body is being shipped from New York today and is expected here tomorrow. The last rites will be conducted by Rev. Jos. H. Huske, Jr., of the local Episcopal Church, and interment will follow in Woodlawn Cemetery here.

Seventh Bomber Is Believed To Have Crashed In Ocean

Driving a Helicat Fighter, Local Boy Accounts For Four Planes Off Leyte

Martin County men have builded a noble record in one war after another, and it is with difficulty to cite the leading accomplishments, but on the best information available, Burras A. Critcher, Jr., Williamston boy, is out in front for the present, at least. One citation after another has been entered in recent months and the young man has a glorious record. According to the latest information received here, the daring young man has shot down six Jap planes, and damaged another so badly that it is believed to have crashed into the sea. The exact measure of four enemy pilots was taken by Ensign Critcher in the Battle of the Philippines in late October, the young man going into the third day of the big fight with the guns of his fighter trained against an enemy carrier.

The young man, volunteering for service in the Navy Air Corps, passed the rigorous training requirements and went west with thousands of other young men. His fighting group, known as Fighting 19 and based aboard a big Essex class carrier in Mitscher's vaunted Fast Carrier Task Force, is just what the name implies. A report from the Navy states that the Fighting 19 shot down fifty-three Jap planes at a cost of one Helicat pilot.

Ensign Critcher attracted unusual notice first back on August 4 of this year when he went to an American submarine in distress off an island of the Kazan Group and sent the enemy's attacking plane spinning into the sea. He was awarded the Air Medal at that time along with a Presidential citation.

Just a short time later on September 12 in the Philippine area he shot down his second plane and so badly damaged another that it is believed to have crashed into the sea. Accompanied by a second Presidential citation, a gold star was presented the young man in lieu of the second air medal.

And then came the big sea, air and land battle for Leyte in the Philippines. It is believed that Admiral Mitscher's men were assigned the third wing of the Jap fleet moving from Formosa. Ensign Critcher went into action on October 23 and knocked out two enemy aircraft, boosting his known total to five. The very next day he was back in the air and knocked out two more for a grand total of seven. Possibly a feat even more daring was entered in the records the third day of that great fight, his accomplishments earning for him

(Continued on page six)

Sale Of Christmas Seals Is Underway

Yesterday, Christmas Seals, to finance the work of the Martin County Tuberculosis Association, were mailed to some 500 persons throughout the county. Seals were also delivered to all the schools in the county, where they were put into the hands of the children. This annual seal drive will be continued until Christmas.

Of the money received from the sale of Christmas Seals, 75 per cent will be used within Martin County.

Proceeds from last year's Seal Sale helped to equip a dark room for X-ray in the Martin County Health Department, and helped to defray the expense of X-rays for indigent patients who were examined.

All business firms and as many as possible of the residents of Williamston and of the county will be contacted by letter or by personal solicitor during the Seal Sale drive.

Christmas Seals have become something of a tradition in this community. By buying and using Christmas Seals, all of us can say, "Thank you, and keep up the good work," to an organization which is doing an excellent job of raising the health standards of Martin County.

One Hurt And Four Cars Damaged Here

Mr. Ernest Edmondson, volunteer panel member of the Martin County War Price and Rationing Board, suffered the fracture of a small bone in his leg and other bruises, and several cars were damaged on the main street here last Friday at 7:20 p. m., when Paul Herman Moore, 53-year-old New Bern white man, plowed into three cars parked in front of the ration board offices.

Edmondson had just gotten out of his car and was caught between two of the cars that were hit by Moore who was traveling up the main thoroughfare in a 1938 Oldsmobile and who was driving on the wrong side of the road. Charged with drunken driving, Moore and jailed and later released under bond in the sum of \$200.

Damage to Board Chairman C. C. Martin's car was placed at \$50, that to Vice Chairman Herbert Roebuck's car at \$12.50 and Joe Gray Corey, panel member, had a loss of \$75. Damage to the Moore car was estimated at about \$100.

NO OUTDOOR LIGHTS

Outdoor lighting for the fast approaching Christmas season has again been ruled out, the Office of War Utilities having issued an order recently pointing out that the fuel situation in most areas of the country is critical and that strict conservation is essential. Elimination of outdoor Christmas lighting, it is estimated, will save enough fuel to meet the lighting and power requirements of a city of 50,000 or more for a year.

The Office of War Utilities is not asking that indoor Christmas lighting, whether in homes or stores, be eliminated, but even then all are urged to use discretion.