

NEARLY 1000 MARTIN COUNTY SERVICE MEN NOW READING THE ENTERPRISE IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD EACH WEEK.

# THE ENTERPRISE

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VOLUME XLVIII—NUMBER 17

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, February 27, 1945.

ESTABLISHED 1929

## Two Armies Push On Toward Cologne and Rhine River Sector

### Russians Said To Have Started Great Offensive in The Guben Area

Launching an offensive non-stop toward final victory, the American First and Ninth Armies have made marked progress since last Friday morning when they drove across the Roer River in the sector east of Aachen to take the lead in the fight along the Western Front. General Courtney Hodges' First Army men were reported today to be within eight miles of Cologne, and that General Simpson's Ninth Army forces were pushing in the general direction of Dusseldorf to the northeast. The First Army men are nearing the Erft River today and the enemy, offering only moderate resistance in the recent phases of the Cologne plain drive, is expected to make a delaying stand there. During the meantime, however, several important centers in the Ruhr area are almost under American artillery fire, and it is believed that Hitler's industrial areas supporting the war soon will be reduced to two regions, one in Austria and the other in Bohemia.

Believing that spearheads of the two American Armies had cleared the Siegfried Line, some observers believe that the offensive launched last Friday will resemble the drive started back in France last June 6.

Reports from both the First and Ninth Army fronts told of rapid deterioration of the German positions, and a Ninth Army officer declared, "There is no organized line in front of us, and it appears we have a breakthrough."

The front now is about fifty miles wide beyond the Roer and more than forty German towns and villages have fallen during the past two days. Tanks and troops, moving over trenches and fortifications, are now within two miles of the Erft River.

Sixty miles to the south, the United States Third Army broke loose on a seven-mile front and is driving before German forces so bewildered that it was difficult to say where the enemy would or could make a stand.

The Canadian First Army on the north end of the front jumped off in a new offensive that gained three and one-half miles behind a creeping artillery barrage of great intensity. It may be designed to pin down ten seasoned enemy divisions and keep them from joining in the mighty struggle swirling over the Cologne plain.

Thus the Allied offensive to wipe out the German army west of the Rhine developed into a four-arm drive on a 200-mile front. The Germans had four days to stiffen resistance, but it remained shaky on the Cologne plan and was weakening on the north as well.

On the Eastern Front, Berlin reported yesterday that Red Army troops had stormed across the Neisse River barrier and driven into Berlin.

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## Over Hundred Tires Allotted In County

More than one hundred tires—96 for passenger cars, seven for light trucks and one for a large truck—were allotted in this county last Friday night by the War Price and Rationing Board.

Certificates for the purchase of Grade I tires were issued to the following:

Annie Hassell, Johnnie E. Mobley, J. D. Wynne, D. O. Bowen, J. S. Candall, Claude Parker, Edward Rawls, Kader Lilly, M. C. Council, Joe Cowin, Augustus Rickdick, Henry Bell, John Manning, Ranson Lloyd, E. C. Jones, D. C. McLawhorn, Eloise M. Bennett, Frank Weathersbee, Fannie Swinson, W. Clyde Manning, C. B. Brown, C. T. Flanagan, H. G. Godard, W. I. Skinner Co., Henry S. Griffin, Mary B. Hodges, Jasper James, P. L. Lee, C. X. James, Roy Harrison, J. E. Copeland, George Thomas, H. H. Corey, Brasco Knox, George Keel, D. L. Harrell, Booker T. McNeil, Mary Henry Kirkman, T. W. Ange, W. M. Bowen, A. B. Fagan, J. L. Beach, J. A. Warren, M. E. Rogers, J. A. Davenport, H. L. Davis, E. C. Edmondson, Eli Rodgers, C. M. James, Paul C. Edmondson, J. D. Holliday, Hassell Warren, Joe Moore, Harvey L. Winberry, Vernon H. Davis, B. W. Taylor, G. T. Adams, Nathan Thompson, J. W. Perkins, Marvin Oscar Farmer, Leroy Roberson, Jasper Cowin, Garland Cowin, Jas. Taylor, Joe Ward, W. E. Pilgreen, O. L. Whichard, Gus Lynch, Matthew Cotten, K. D. Smithwick, Judson M. Whitfield, Jesse Rogers, Bailey's Garage, A. B. Oreg, R. T. Taylor.

Truck tires were allotted the following: G. D. Grimes, Jr., Williamston Lumber Co., Robersonville Ice and Coal Co., V. L. Roberson. One large truck tire was issued to D. M. Roberson.

## And Other Amusement Places

In accordance with general orders issued by the War Production Board, the midnight curfew for clubs, amusement centers and other places of entertainment will be enforced in this county by members of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol. The patrolmen have been instructed by department headquarters in Raleigh not to operate under the general orders within incorporated towns and villages. No direct orders have been received by local police, and Chief Chas. Mobley said yesterday afternoon that he or members of his department would not take any action against violators until definite instructions are received. According to reports from other cities and towns, law enforcement officers plan to help enforce the order.

The War Production Board, contrary to the belief held by many and

despite, more or less, general opposition, has put biting teeth into its order. Violators will be reported to the board by patrolmen, state or municipal, and orders will be issued denying them fuel and food rations, and lights and power service connections will be cut off for the duration. The order states that the amusement centers or places of entertainment shall be closed and lights out at 12 o'clock, meaning that an operator may not lock his door and continue to serve those patrons already in his establishment.

There are not many such establishments in this county, and it is not expected that any trouble will follow in enforcing the order which went into effect this week. However, some of the big boys in the large cities are balking, and have declared that the speakasy will come back into its own.

### WOUNDED

Pfc. William C. Bunch, Jr., local young man, was slightly wounded in action on the Italian front on February 7, his parents were notified here last week-end. In a personal letter, Pvt. Bunch explained that he suffered a broken leg and was getting along all right in an Army hospital somewhere in Italy.

He was a member of a tank destroyer company, and had returned to actual combat duty just a few days before he was wounded following a few days' rest. The young man entered the service in February of last year and had been overseas since last September.

A brother, John Bunch, is in the service and stationed at present in Greensboro.

## Report County Boy Missing In Action Since February 6th

### William Jennings Etheridge Had Been In Service Hardly Five Months

Pvt. William Jennings Etheridge, young Martin County man of the Hassell Community, has been missing in action on the Western Front since February 6th, his father, Mr. Dave Etheridge, was notified last week-end. The young man, not quite 21 years of age, was in Patton's Third Army and it is presumed he was in the Prum area in Germany a short distance across the Belgium border. In a letter dated February 5, Pvt. Etheridge told his father that he was in Belgium and getting along all right. The letter was the second received from the young soldier since he went overseas a few weeks ago.

Entering the service on August 22, 1944, Pvt. Etheridge trained at Camp Croft, South Carolina, and returned home on Christmas Eve for a six-day furlough. Leaving for Fort Meade, Md., on December 30, he is believed to have been sent overseas almost immediately.

A graduate of the Oak City High School with the class of 1943, he is one of two brothers now in the service. In the Marines, Thomas is stationed at Parris Island, S. C., and another brother, Clinton, was honorably discharged in December, 1942, after serving thirteen months in the Navy. A brother-in-law, Ira Woolard, is in the Marines and stationed at Camp Lejeune. He also has a young brother, Dave, and three sisters, Mrs. Lloyd McLawhorn, RFD 1, Bethel; Mrs. Ira Woolard of Hassell and Wilson, and Miss Hazel Etheridge of the home. His mother, the former Miss Lucy Rawls, died some years ago.

### Bear Grass School Patrons Plan School Lunch Room

Holding their monthly session last week, about thirty members of the Bear Grass Parent-Teacher Association discussed plans for opening a lunch room in the school there next term. Several suggestions were offered, and the school patrons will work to raise money to finance the project. They plan to give a supper shortly.

The association, headed by Mrs. Pete Mendenhall, president, and Mrs. Johnny Knox, secretary, will hold its next meeting on March 19.

### Roberson's Chapel Ladies' Auxiliary Meets On Friday

Holding a regular meeting Friday afternoon of this week at 3 o'clock, the Roberson Chapel Ladies' Auxiliary will elect new officers for the coming year. All members are asked to be present.

## County Young Man Anxiously Awaits Letters from Home

### Melburn Hardison, on South Sea Island, Rather Get Mail Than Money

Although lonely and without any word from home in two months, G. Melburn Hardison, of RFD 1, Williamston, is still carrying on on a South Sea island. In a letter dated February 11, he said:

"I wish I was writing to let you know I had received The Enterprise. No such luck. I haven't had any mail that was dated since the 19th of December. I used to get mad if the mail was a few days late. I guess I'm just human. A guy never knows when he is well off. I haven't been paid in two months and I'm flat broke, but still I rather have mail.

"Can't say where I am. Can't say where I'm going. Can't say where I've been or when I left. I guess I can say that it's not so bad here. We are on a South Sea island with coconut trees, nice beaches, cool breezes, but no South Sea natives like you see in the movies. There used to be a lot of monkeys here. That was before Uncle Sam decided he'd move in. Of course they were sawed-off screech-eyed monkeys.

"I was in the Navy almost two years before I shipped out. I was called a sailor during that time but I didn't know what it meant hardly. I have a pretty good idea now, I didn't know what seasickness was, but I do now. I was so sick for about a week I couldn't eat, sleep or do much of anything but lean over the rail and let nature take its course.

"There isn't any news that I can tell. We get news reports over the radio and hear other programs that are short-waved to us. We have shows and games of all kinds and other amusement on board ship. The show could be better most of the time, but tonight we are having turkey. It's Sunday, so it's a little special for today. There are church services of all faiths each Sunday and prayer meetings during the week.

"Well, that's about all for now. I'm really looking forward to receiving mail from home. Hoping several copies of The Enterprise are in the bag. This leaves me feeling tops, but sorta lonesome. Today is Sunday, and finds me with nothing to do and plenty of time to do it. It could be worse."

### County Well Represented At Basketball Tournament

Several towns in this section were well represented at the annual basketball conference in Raleigh last week-end. Among those attending were: Geo. Harrison, Jr., R. M. Manning, J. H. Edwards, Homer Barnhill, J. C. Manning, V. J. Spivey, Toddie Holding, C. B. Roebuck, N. C. Green, Rupert Cowan, C. C. Martin, Onward Gaylord, C. B. Martin, U. S. Hassell, Leslie Hardison, Georgia Martin, Thomas Earl Martin, Joe Holliday, Andrew Holliday, Jr., Clifford Corey, Tom Brown Manning, C. A. Askew, Wendell Hamilton, Oliver Hamilton, Herbert Sexton, Hugh Horton, Jr., Kenneth Lindsley, Jr., Tom Brandon, Jr., Billy Myers, Dan Bowen, Fred Hardison, Chas. Siceloff.

### Pittman Alters And Enlarges Clothing Store Here Recently

Pittman's Clothing Store here has been altered and renovated which will enable this firm to better serve the people of this section. The inside partition has been moved practically to the rear of the building and new fixtures and shelving have been installed.

"We have been too crowded for a long time and in making these improvements we can better display our stock," Mr. Pittman said.

## Mrs. Van R. Taylor Dies Here Monday After Long Illness

Four persons were arrested and jailed here over the weekend, most of them falling into the hands of the law while speeding around late Saturday night. Two were booked for drunken driving and two were detained for public drunkenness. Two of the group were white, and the ages ranged from 29 to 75 years.

## Mrs. Hattie Lawrence Taylor, Well-Known Citizen of Poplar Point Township, Died in Local Hospital Yesterday Afternoon at 3:40 o'clock Following Years of Declining Health.

Mrs. Hattie Lawrence Taylor, well-known citizen of Poplar Point Township, died in the local hospital yesterday afternoon at 3:40 o'clock following years of declining health. Suffering from rheumatism, she had during the past ten years or more, undergone treatment in various hospitals without much success. During the past two years she had been an invalid and entered the hospital here last April. Her condition remained about the same there until just a short time ago, a marked change being noted just a few days before her death.

The daughter of the late Thad Lawrence, Sr., and wife, Lou Salisbury, Mrs. Taylor was born in Hamilton 72 years ago, spending most of her early life there or until her marriage to the late Van R. Taylor. With the exception of one year spent in Hamilton, she had made her home in Poplar Point until she entered the local hospital about ten months ago. No children survive her, but she was a mother to her stepchildren, one of whom, Mr. V. G. Taylor, of Everetts, survives. Mrs. Taylor was a member of the Hamilton Baptist Church for possibly more than half a century and was faithful in its support and in attendance upon its service for many years.

During her long illness, she complained little and bore her suffering with fortitude and great patience.

Besides her stepson she is survived by one brother, Thad Lawrence, of Sanford.

The body is being moved from the Biggs Funeral Home here this afternoon to the Hamilton Baptist Church where her pastor, Rev. E. C. Wilkie of Robersonville, will conduct the funeral service at 3:30 o'clock. Interment will follow in the family plot in the Hamilton Cemetery.

## Funeral Wednesday For Charles Raynor

Funeral services were conducted last Wednesday afternoon at the home for Charlie Raynor who died at his home near Hamilton late Monday night. Rev. J. M. Perry, Robersonville minister, conducted the rites, and interment was in the Hamilton Cemetery.

Mr. Raynor, 47 years old and a farmer, was cutting wood near Roanoke River Monday afternoon and suffered a heart attack about 5:30 o'clock. He was removed to Oak City and later carried to his home where death followed a few hours later.

He leaves his wife, a Miss Pitt he served her marriage; a son, Spencer Raynor who is now serving in the Army overseas, and a brother, Kenneth Raynor, of Whitakers.

### Detained For Alleged Theft Of A Government Check

Mrs. Lucy Mae Haynes, formerly of this county, was detained by federal authorities a few days ago for the alleged theft of a government check from a relative in South Carolina.

Taken into custody, she was given a preliminary hearing by a U. S. Commissioner in Washington last week-end and placed under bond in the sum of \$500.

## THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

After stalling along at a low figure, figures in the Martin County highway accident record started climbing during the past two weeks, passing the 1944 count in one column and approaching the figures in the others.

Table with 4 columns: Year, Accidents, Injured, Killed. Data for 1945, 1944, 1943, 1942.

## Its Personal Property Values For Locating Enemy Guns By Observers

Its listing work just recently completed, Poplar Point Township shows a fairly healthy gain in its 1945 personal property values over those listed last year, County Tax Supervisor M. Luther Peel, announces. The district listed its personal property values this year at \$124,979. Its real property listings were placed at \$271,393, boosting the total assessed property valuation to \$396,371, as compared with about \$384,000 for 1944. There was little or no change in the real property listings.

No other townships have completed their tax scrolls, but preliminary reports point to a fair gain in values for the county, as a whole.

One of the largest single personal property items listed in Poplar Point was work stock. The 238 mules were valued at \$32,410, or about \$136 per

head. The 14 horses in the township had a combined assessed value of \$1,050. A lone goat in the district was listed at \$1, and 112 milch cows were valued at \$8,955, an average value of about \$80 per head. The 101 other cattle were valued at \$3,745. Approximately 2,000 hogs were valued at \$8,791, an average value of about \$4.50 each. Chickens were valued at \$1,962.

A few types of personal property showed slight losses in value and accounted for hardly more than half of the valuation claimed in the township. The combined value of livestock was approximately \$57,000.

Tax Supervisor Peel believed most of the tax records will be made ready for the accountant's office by the middle or latter part of March, that the work is well advanced at this time.

## County Citizens Urged To Support Red Cross

### Annual Campaign to Get Underway Here Thursday, March 1st

### Chapter Chairman Hopes To Raise \$6,600 Quota In Less Than 2 Weeks

Meeting in the courthouse here this morning with local canvassers, Chairman J. C. Manning and Bill Spivey completed plans for launching the annual Red Cross War Fund Drive in this chapter on Thursday of this week. Announcing the plans complete for the drive, Chairman Spivey expressed the hope that the \$6,600 quota would be raised within the next two weeks.

The more than 100 canvassers in the chapter have pledged their best efforts to meet the challenge, and the general public is humbly asked to respond liberally and be considerate of the solicitors who are working without remuneration other than the knowledge that some serviceman, quite probably a Martin County boy, will be benefited. Canvassers have been asked not to delay in starting their work, and those who do not find it convenient to respond to the call when the canvasser calls are urged to be considerate and deliver their contributions direct to the canvasser, making a second call unnecessary.

It is estimated that the current Red Cross program will cost about \$7 a second. At that rate, the subscription in this chapter will last 943 seconds. Surely, the citizens of this county will stick in there and willingly carry the ball for that length of time.

No agency in the world can meet every individual emergency, but reports from prisoner of war camps, from the fox holes, from lonely outposts, from the battlefronts and from camps and families of servicemen at home state that the Red Cross has done a noble work. Right here in this chapter, approximately 60 cases are handled each month by the home service director, Mrs. S. H. Grimes, at her office over the old Farmers and Merchants Bank. Emergency messages have been sent, addresses have been checked, allowances and allotments have been arranged and many other services have been willingly rendered. Thousands of surgically rendered.

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### Letter Follows Return Address To The Addressee

A local young athlete, writing while on a short visit to Raleigh recently to his girl back home, addressed the letter to the young lady at Bear Grass, N. C. Possibly Postmaster Insoce of Raleigh, the office where the letter was mailed, knew where to send the letter even though there is no official post office in the neighboring town. Or the letter may have followed the return address to Williamston where postal workers, acquainted with both parties and the case, hastened the epistle to the addressee. It just goes to prove among other things that the postal service is great.

### Mission Study Class Will Meet In Church Tomorrow

A mission study class of the Woman's Council of the Christian Church will be held Wednesday night, February 28th, at 7:30, at the church.

### Minor Wreck Near Oak City Early Sunday Morning

No one was hurt and very little damage was caused when Richard Davis, colored, ran his old Model A Ford into a ditch between Oak City and Hamilton about 1 o'clock Sunday morning. He was accompanied by several persons.

## Unique System Used For Locating Enemy Guns By Observers

### Jamesville Young Man Member of Field Artillery Observation Battalion

Sixth Army Group, France—Infantrymen, crawling on their bellies through the brush and mud at advanced outposts of the front sometimes wonder who the stranger is in their midst. Besides a doughboy's equipment, he has a little electrical gadget.

It doesn't take the doughboys long to find out he's a member of the 3rd Field Artillery Observation Battalion, and performing a mighty important job in locating enemy guns, adjusting our own artillery fire, and collecting important intelligence for the strategists at headquarters.

Cpl. Dallas G. Waters, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar G. Waters, of Jamesville, N. C., is a member of this Field Artillery Observation Battalion. He is a graduate of Jamesville High School and attended Duke University. Cpl. Waters has been with this outfit four years, going overseas in December, 1943.

When an enemy artillery piece fires, the American forward observer presses a button on his electrical gadget. With that snap of a button, a series of concealed microphones strung out in a line a couple of miles back are turned on.

Since the mikes are at varying distances from the enemy gun, they pick up the sound at varying time-intervals of as little as one-thousandth of a second. From each microphone are wire lines leading to another, more complicated instrument at a central recording point.

Here the variations in time-intervals are almost instantaneously photographed as jagged lines, half a dozen lines for half a dozen microphones. Transcribed to a plotting board, these time-intervals become intersecting lines on a map, with the point of intersection revealing the location of the enemy gun.

Fully 50 per cent or more of the men have a knowledge of geometry, trigonometry and other advanced mathematics. That knowledge is needed in computing temperature, wind and other corrections to the data picked up by the microphones. A meteorological section of the battalion informs the computers of these corrections, and also furnishes data to all artillery units in the XV Corps, with which the 3rd Field Artillery Observation Battalion is now serving.

The battalion uses another system of locating enemy guns—through observation, also by advanced look-outs, of flash or smoke. Using an instrument like a telescope on a graduate base, these flash observers report by phone to a Flash Central, where again mathematicians and plotters determine the enemy position through triangulation.

In France, these flash and sound observers have served with the First, Third and Seventh Armies. They have captured prisoners, taken a few towns themselves, and contributed directly to smashing the back of the Nazi forces.

## Successful Term Is Completed by Club

Under the leadership of Mrs. Evelyn Mannig, the Williamston chapter of the Beta Club has successfully completed five months of beneficial and educational work in the local high school.

Undertaking for their projects this year the cleaning up of the school, and the sponsoring of a weekly column in the newspaper, the club has done exceedingly well in both of these fields as shown by the following: The clean-up program resulted in giving the school a fresh new appearance and the newspaper column gives the public a general idea of what takes place during a school week. A prize is given for the most interesting article during the month.

Largely through magazine sales the Beta Club raised \$200, some of which was spent in the decoration of our club room. Members receive the privilege of using this room for study during their vacant periods.

Plans are being made to take in new candidates at the next meeting. To be inducted into the Beta Club, the candidate must have a 90 or above average and be in good moral standing, have shown his or her ability to be a leader, and have promised to abide by the Beta Club oath for the period during which he or she is a member.

The following is a list of the members: Dan Bowen, Dorothy Leggett, Dick Levin, Hugh Horton, Charles Siceloff, Elizabeth Manning, Elizabeth Parker, Louise Hines, Gloria Hayman, J. C. Coltrane, Lucy Andrews, Gladys Peele, Joseph Wynne, Pearl Mewbern, Earl Moore, Frances Griffin, Louise Griffin and Elizabeth Taylor. Our president is Pearl Mewbern and secretary, Frances Griffin.—Reported.