

Marked Reduction In Number of Car Tires For County

Only 67 Cars and Truck Tires Are Released Last Friday Night

Martin County passenger car drivers will have to guard their tires even more carefully during the coming months if they are to continue to drive, C. C. Martin, chairman of the Martin County War Price and Rationing Board, said today.

This county will have only 184 passenger car tires for rationing in April as compared to 300 in March, he said. The shortage of passenger tires makes it necessary that they be issued only after the war importance of each applicant's car use is measured against the importance of other applicant's cars, he pointed out.

A preferential list of occupations for use in selecting persons to receive passenger car tires has been established.

This list will be used in channeling the reduced quota of tires to persons whose transportation needs are regarded as most essential to the war effort, he declared.

Under the new plan the number of eligibles is not reduced, but is classified into preference groups, based on the direct importance of the car's use to the war effort. The priorities in considering applications are divided into four groups, he continued.

First priority group is limited almost entirely to persons whose occupations are of emergency nature and to workers at establishments faced with production emergencies. Included in this group are eligible physicians, public health nurses, police and employees at critical war industries.

Group Two includes persons employed in other essential plants and those whose occupations are highly important to the war effort. In this group are farmers, farm workers, representatives of management, labor and government and others of similar importance.

Group Three includes such occupations as buyers for essential establishments and persons who travel to essential establishments to perform necessary technical services.

Group Four takes in all other persons eligible for grade one passenger tires, he said.

He added that each individual tire applicant must establish his present need for the tire applied for, even though he is rated in a high preference group.

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

Garland Rogers, Willie Bullock, Leo J. Everett, John T. Smithwick, Lawrence Edwin Coltrain, Wendell Griffin, Mrs. Hattie Rogers, R. A. Edmondson, Mrs. James W. Gurkin, J. B. Whitfield, James A. Rawls, V. L. Peel, W. K. Roebuck, V. C. Chemical Corp., J. T. Bennett, K. S. Bunting, Robersonville Ice and Coal Co., Wiley Craft, A. S. Hardy, Evan Crisp, J. E. Hedrick, W. L. Chesson, J. A. Powell, Vernon Powell, C. D. Cavanaugh, Henry Lee, E. R. Turner, John A. Manning, Levi McGowan, V. T. Moore, C. E. Jenkins, W. H. Wynn, A. E. Smith, Don Chance, B. L. House, C. H. Ayers, Harvey L. Winberry, Mayo Harrell, W. S. Bland, H. A. Pierce, P. C. Edmondson, Jr., Frankie Coburn, Overton James, H. S. Johnson, Carolina Telephone Co., Adkins and Bailey Warehouse, J. J. Bennett, W. O. White, C. C. Martin, Biggs Funeral Home.

Truck tires: F. B. Birmingham, P. C. Edmondson, Williamston Lumber Co., H. L. Davis.

Blue Mold Reported In Tobacco Beds In County

According to indirect reports reaching here during the past few days, blue mold is making its appearance in tobacco plant beds in various parts of the county.

The mold was said to be very light so far, but coming when the plants are comparatively small, farmers believe it will do considerable damage.

Bronze Star Awarded Young Man for Meritorious Service

With the Ninth Infantry Division in Germany—Pfc. William L. Taylor of Williamston, N. C., has been awarded the Bronze Star by Major General Louis A. Craig, Commanding General of the 9th Infantry Division, for meritorious service as a member of the 60th Infantry Regiment of the famous 9th Division.

His citation reads, "The Bronze Star is awarded to William L. Taylor, Private First Class, 14029838, 60th Infantry, who distinguished himself by meritorious service in connection with military operations against the enemy during the period 1 October 1944 to 31 December 1944 in the European Theater of Operations. Through himself this period, Pfc. Taylor proved himself to be an outstanding and competent combat soldier, performing his duties as messenger in an exceptionally meritorious manner. With complete disregard for personal safety, he repeatedly exposed himself to intense enemy artillery, mortar, small arms fire to deliver messages of vital importance to units in forward combat areas, insuring uninterrupted communications at all times. Pfc. Taylor's aggressive initiative, courageous actions, and devotion to duty were a credit to himself and to the Armed Forces of the United States."

Education Authorities Name Committeemen

TO SPEAK HERE



Mrs. Ellen Winston, State Commissioner of Public Welfare, will address a joint meeting of local civic clubs and other interested persons in the Womans' Club hall here tomorrow evening at 8:30 o'clock. Her topic will be, "Public Welfare in North Carolina."

Easter Services Are Well Attended Here

Easter services here and throughout the county attracted record size crowds Sunday, reports stating that churches were filled to capacity.

The sunrise service with most of the local denominations taking part, was well attended in Woodlawn Cemetery Sunday morning at 6:49 o'clock. Possibly the crowd was the largest seen at any similar service there, and the real meaning of the day was more pronounced than at any time in recent years.

Easter finery hardly measured up to that paraded in former years, the war apparently overtaking the style parade.

Poplar Point Man Hurt In Auto Wreck Yesterday

Willie Bullock, Poplar Point man, was hurt yesterday afternoon when his car, a 1936 model, went out of control and turned over near Butler's Bridge on the Hamilton-Williamston Highway, according to information heard here last night. No particulars of the accident could be had here immediately, but it was said that the man received medical treatment in a doctor's office at Robersonville, and that other travelers had to stop and push the car from the road.

L. T. Fowden Critically Ill At His Home Here

Mr. L. T. Fowden, well-known local citizen, continues critically ill at his home on Church Street following a stroke suffered last Sunday morning. Although in feeble health for some time, he was able to be up through most of last Friday when he talked with old friends on the streets.

COTTON GINNINGS

That Martin County is fast deserting King Cotton is shown in a final report on ginnings for the past two seasons. Farmers ginned 2,388 bales from the 1944 crop as compared with 3,389 bales ginned from the 1943 crop, according to a report filed by Mrs. Strelca Griffin, special agent for the Bureau of the Census, and covering the period up to March 1.

At one time, Martin County farmers were producing and ginning 5,000 bales of cotton annually.

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Earlier Opening Of Schools Ordered By Authorities Monday

Few Changes Made in District Committee Personnel; Other Business

Meeting in regular session here yesterday, members of the Martin County Board of Education named district committeemen for the next two years and handled a few other business matters before adjourning in time for lunch.

Beginning tomorrow morning and at the direction of the county board, all schools will open at 8:30 o'clock. The earlier opening will make it possible for the schools to end their daily session from 2:30 to 3:00 o'clock, the closing hour depending upon the length of the recess periods allowed.

J. C. Manning was re-elected superintendent of county schools. He is beginning his eighth term in that position.

George C. Griffin, reappointed by the State Legislature, was sworn in at the meeting for a six-year term, and Leslie W. Hardison, also reappointed, was sworn in for a four-year term as members of the county board. Ferd W. Holliday, serving as a new member of the body, was sworn in for a four-year term at the meeting Monday.

Committeemen for the several school districts were appointed for two-year terms. While most of the old committee members were reappointed, sweeping changes were made in one district and a few asked to be relieved in others.

In Jamesville, J. C. Kirkman, Joe Martin and John A. Gardner were appointed to succeed C. C. Fleming, F. C. Stallings and J. Linwood Knowles, who had served well for several terms.

The Farm Life committee, composed of Asa Hardison, P. E. Getsinger and B. F. Lilley, was reappointed.

In Bear Grass, W. M. Harrison was appointed to succeed Wheeler Rogerson, resigned. Kneezzer Harrison and Rossell Rogers, were reappointed.

Williamston's committee, R. L. Coburn, C. B. Clark and R. H. Gooden, was reappointed.

In Robersonville, W. H. Gray, I. M. Little, N. C. Everett, J. M. Dixon and H. L. Roebuck were reappointed.

Garland Forbes succeeds Gordon Bailey on the Everetts committee, and Herman Williams and Herbert Roebuck were reappointed.

At Gold Point, H. H. Roberson, Lorey Croom and Herbert Johnson were reappointed.

In the Oak City district, E. E. Pittman, Francis Worsley, J. A. Everett, George Oglesby and E. R. Edmondson were reappointed, along with A. E. Purvis, Woodrow Purvis and George Ayers at Hassell, and Henry Johnson, Jr., L. R. Everett and Clayton House at Hamilton.

A contract to improve the acoustics in the Robersonville Grammar School building was received. Offered in the sum of \$1,092, the contract was held in abeyance pending further inquiry.

Other school matters were discussed but no action was taken.

Reports from the office of superintendent point to an aggravated teacher shortage again for the coming term. However, victory in Europe is expected to relieve the situation to some extent, at least.

Draft Registration For Month of March

A record low in the number registering for selective service was reported in this county last month when only sixteen new names were added to the draft list. Only five of the sixteen were white.

Names of the new registrants and their addresses follow:

- Arthur Sanders, c, RFD 1, Oak City.
- James Sanders, c, RFD 1, Oak City.
- Billy Junior White, c, Oak City.
- Henry Amos Bryant, c, RFD 1, Palmyra.
- William Clifton Lawrence, c, RFD 1, Oak City.
- Robert Raynor, c, RFD 1, Oak City.
- Thomas Earl Roberson, w, RFD 1, Williamston.
- James Russell Lee, w, RFD 2, Williamston.
- Dennis Warren, w, Robersonville.
- Joseph Saunders Leggett, w, RFD 2, Williamston.
- Walter Louis Brown, c, Williams-ton.
- Eliwood Preston Alexander, w, RFD 1, Jamesville.
- Robert Clayton Sneed, c, RFD 1, Bethel.
- William Joseph Barber, c, RFD 1, Jamesville.
- Plad Octavius Godard, c, RFD 2, Williamston.
- Emmett Saunders, c, Williamston.

EASTER SEAL SALES

The sale of Easter seals for crippled children is well under way, dragging to a close in this county, the chairman, Miss Mary W. Taylor, announcing yesterday that approximately \$600 of a \$1,400 quota had been raised and reported. Local Girl Scouts accounted for nearly half the amount last Saturday when they canvassed the town and community with the little stickers.

While the sale is far below the assigned quota, the amount so far reported is considerably larger than the total ordinarily raised in this county. In the first sale back in 1937, the county raised \$23.52. Last year, \$289.68 was raised for the crippled children fund.

Ruhr Encirclement Certain To Hasten Victory in Europe

Germans Withdrawing From Holland On a Big Scale; Russians Near Vienna

The encirclement of the Ruhr has sealed the fate of an estimated 100,000 Germans, and according to General Eisenhower, "this magnificent stroke of arms will hasten the end of the European war". While the Ruhr battle is progressing toward a climax, the drive toward Berlin continues with American units more than half way across Germany and within 150 miles of Berlin. At the same time, an encirclement movement is in progress in Holland where an estimated 50,000 Germans are frantically withdrawing in an effort to flee the trap.

The British 2nd, Canadian 1st and U. S. 9th Armies are pushing on beyond Munster and heading for Bremen. The U. S. 1st Army, after completing the encirclement of the Ruhr is sending a force toward Hannover and the super highway running from the Ruhr district to Frankfurt on the Oder in the East. Patton's Third Army is plunging forward in the Kassel area, and it is possible that this force will direct its main drive toward Erfurt and for a junction with the Russians near Jena south of Leipzig. Another arm of the Third Army is with the Seventh converging on Nuremberg.

In the East, the Russians are moving in on Vienna as the civilians there join in a movement to throw the Germans out and save their city. The fall of Bratislava, capital of the puppet Slovak government has been announced, but the main and anticipated last big action is centered in a drive from the Oder in the direction of Dresden and for a junction with the American Third Army south of Leipzig.

The Italian front, more or less quiet these past few weeks has come to life again with an invasion behind German lines by the Eighth Army. The move is expected to have a marked effect on future developments in the Italian theater.

While the war in Europe is nearing a close, progress is being made in the Pacific. The invasion of Okinawa, 325 miles south of the Jap home islands, has met with great success. The move, described as the largest amphibious operation in the Pacific so far, has cut the ten-mile wide and sixty-mile long island in two. American casualties have been light and the poor defense offered by the Japs has not yet been explained. It was reported that 1,400 ships and 100,000 men participated in the invasion.

Department Personnel Is Further Reduced

Following the resignation of two of its employees, the Martin County Health Department is now trying to carry on with a skeleton force with little immediate hope of finding replacements. Miss Mary Louise Taylor, efficient nurse with the department for several years, left last Saturday for service in the Army Nurse Corps. Garland Coltrain, sanitarian with the department for some months, resigned last Saturday.

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

After traveling through the 12th week of the current year without an accident, motorists boosted slightly the accident record figures in the thirteenth week ending last Saturday. Despite the perfect records for several weeks this year, the accident record figures with the exception of the fatalities are quite impressive.

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.

13th Week Comparison			
Accidents In'd Killed Dam'ge			
1945	1	0	\$ 200
1944	1	0	125
Comparison To Date			
1945	17	6	\$5150
1944	14	4	2900

Commissioners Place Ban on Wine Licenses Convention For The Nomination of Town Officials April 20th

For Taxes Due and Unpaid To County

Budget for Aid to Aged and Dependent Children Approved

Acting with the authority given them by recent legislative act and after hearing appeals made by representatives of ministerial groups and other citizens, the Martin County commissioners yesterday placed a ban on the issuance of licenses for the sale of wine after April 30. The action, passed upon the motion by Commissioner Joshua L. Coltrain and a second by Commissioner R. A. Haislip, will hardly force any retailer out of business, but it will remove wines from the list of items for sale. At the present time there are fifteen retail wine dealers in the county. After April 30 wine may be sold legally in the county only by the Alcoholic Beverages Control stores. The action, recognized as a forward step in promoting sobriety, will virtually eliminate the sale of synthetic and "fighting" wines. Wines made from fruit juices may be had in quantity from a large stock now in the ABC system's inventories.

The regular meeting of the commissioners was comparatively brief, the work calendar having been cleared before the authorities adjourned for lunch.

J. Sam Getsinger was reappointed county accountant for two years.

All real property upon which the 1944 taxes have not been paid were ordered advertised the first Monday in May for sale the first Monday in June. A report on tax collections could not be had immediately, but the unpaid accounts are about as small as they have ever been at this time of the year, it is understood.

Welfare department budget estimates for old age pensions and care of dependent children were approved. The department proposed an appropriation of \$36,960.00 for the aged, an increase of \$1,320.00 over the current fiscal year figures. The case load is being reduced from 221 to 220, but the monthly allotment is being increased from \$11.86 to \$14.00 per person on an average each month. It was pointed out in the budget report that the county will be asked to appropriate \$9,240.00 as its share, the fund to get the remainder from the state and federal governments.

The department estimates that \$15,360.00 will be needed to provide aid to dependent children in the county during the coming fiscal year. The county is being asked to raise \$3,840.00. Thirty-nine families are now receiving an average of \$30.38 per month from the aid-to-dependent-children fund. The budget proposed to increase the number to 40 and the size of the annual appropriation by \$600.

Tax relief orders, based on the entry of the property owners into the armed forces, were granted as follows:

- For 1944: Marion T. Holliday of Jamesville, \$7.02, army.
- Abraham Cordon, of Jamesville, \$2.06, army.
- Louis Lee, Williams Township, \$8.86, double listed.
- Charlie Bowen, of Bear Grass, \$2, army.
- Willie Davis, of Bear Grass, \$6.03, army.
- Lewis Harris, Williamston Township, \$2.11 for 1944 and \$2.10 for 1943, navy.
- Roland C. Cherry, Williamston Township, \$2.33 for 1942, army.
- Willie Clifton Jones, Hamilton Township, \$9.68 for 1942, army.
- John H. Lyons, Williams Township.

Wounded Soldier Is Coming Home Soon

Badly wounded in his left shoulder last December 6 during the drive into Belgium, Thomas Daniel is expected to return home on Friday or Saturday of this week, according to information just received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Noah T. Daniel of the Farm Life Community.

The young man has been in an Army hospital since the day he was wounded, and reports state that he is not yet able to use his left arm. A brother, Benjamin Daniel, was wounded slightly a few days before, and a cousin, Joseph Daniel, has been wounded three times in the fight along the Western Front.

Car Stolen From Main Street Here Late Sunday

The 1940 Chevrolet coach belonging to Chas. Forbes, RFD 2, Robersonville, was stolen from Main Street here last Sunday night shortly before 11 o'clock. The car has not been recovered.

Native of County Dies in Lumberton



Willie H. Crofton, native of this county, died in a Lumberton hospital about 11 o'clock last night following a long period of declining health.

A son of Mr. George A. and Mrs. Ida Roberson Crofton, of Williamston, he was born in the Gold Point Community about 42 years ago. He had made his home in the Lumberton community since a child where he was a successful farmer.

Funeral arrangements had not been announced early today, but it was reported that the last rites would be conducted in Lumberton Wednesday afternoon and that interment would follow there.

When a young man, he was married to Miss Ruth Barker and she survives with two children. He also leaves besides his parents, four brothers, Frank of Williamston, Geo. of Lumberton, Glenn of the Army now in Germany and Clayton Crofton, U. S. Army; three sisters, Mrs. John Haisley, Mrs. J. S. Ayers, Jr., and Miss Mary Barden Crofton, all of Williamston.

No action was taken on a request made by B. S. Courtney asking the town to accept part of the cost incurred in filling in a gully on East Church Street. It was pointed out that \$110 had been spent recently in improving the street and adjoining property.

Advised of the action taken by the county commissioners banning the issuance of licenses for the sale of wine after the 30th of this month, the commissioners briefly discussed the issue, but delayed action until a copy of the new state law is made available. It is likely that the town will support the wine license ban.

County Young Man Awarded Infantryman's Combat Badge

With the 80th Division on the Western Front—Major General Horace L. McBride, Commanding General of the 80th Infantry Division, has announced that Pfc. Levin V. Ange was one of 96 enlisted men to receive the Combat Infantryman's Badge for exemplary conduct in action against the enemy in the European Theater of Operations.

ROUND-UP

The Easter holiday season in the county saw little activity on the crime front. Four persons were arrested and jailed over the week-end, the number of alleged law violators running considerably below the average.

Charged with being publicly drunk, drunken driving and violating the motor vehicle laws, all four of these temporarily detained were colored. Their ages ranged from 26 to 43 years.

April 9-14 Period Proclaimed As Clean-Up Week By Mayor

An outstanding opportunity for patriotic and public service and to promote public welfare, health, beauty and safety in our town is to inaugurate a clean-up campaign. For promotion of the public health and safety, fire prevention and for a cleaner and more beautiful town is the goal set in our clean-up campaign this year.

Let us put our property into safe and sanitary condition, remove insect breeding menaces, cut pollen bearing weeds, destroy disease bearing germs and increase human efficiency.

All yards, back lots, vacant lots, and all lots back of the stores must be cleared of trash, and rubbish which if not attended to is likely to menace health and result in accidents and make a fine breeding place for mosquitoes and other insects.

Meeting in regular session here last evening, the local town commissioners called a town convention to be held in the county courthouse on Friday evening, April 20, at 8 o'clock for the nomination of a mayor and five members of the board. The nominations, tantamount to election, will be followed by a regular election on the first Tuesday in May. While no qualifications have surrounded participation in the nominating convention, the registration for participation in the regular election will be based on requirements set forth in the state and national election laws. John E. Pope was named registrar and O. S. Anderson and J. T. Price were named judges of election. Registrar Pope will open the books for new registrations at his office on Washington Street on Saturday of this week and hold them open during the following two Saturdays. The books will be opened on the fourth Saturday, April 28, for the challenge of any registration. Those persons who have participated in town elections in recent years will not find it necessary to register again to vote in the election on May 1st.

The nominating convention was tentatively set for Friday of next week, but since that day is the 13th, the commissioners decided to delay it one week and hold it on the 20th.

The convention is virtually a law unto itself. Rules are made then and there and nominations are just about equal to election.

Pledging their cooperation in the proposed clean-up movement scheduled to get underway here next Monday, the commissioners instructed the superintendent of streets to employ additional workers and place extra equipment in use for handling trash. No new regulations were advanced in support of the clean-up movement, but an order was issued directing the police department to warn merchants and others against sweeping trash into the streets or dumping it into the backlots for the wind, dogs and children to scatter.

Real estate owners who have not paid their 1944 taxes by the second week in May will have their property advertised at that time for public auction on the second Monday in June, the board ordered.

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Half-Holiday Schedule To Go Into Effect Tomorrow

Beginning tomorrow local stores and other business houses will observe each Wednesday afternoon as a holiday. The schedule does not include heavy industry. The stores, scheduled to close at 1 o'clock, will observe the half-holiday each Wednesday afternoon from now until the latter part of August.

It has been suggested that those freed from their regular jobs could render able assistance by spending the half-holidays in gardens and on farms where the labor shortage is critical.

Revival To Begin Wednesday Night At Piney Grove Church

The spring revival meeting will begin at Piney Grove Baptist Church on Wednesday night at 8:15 o'clock and continue on through the week, closing on the second Sunday. All members are urged to attend and the public is invited.

Now, therefore, I, J. L. Hassell, Mayor of Williamston, do hereby declare the week of April 9-14, as Clean-Up Week in Williamston.

The civic organizations of the town are joining in this campaign and let us make it the best clean-up we have ever had.

J. L. Hassell, Mayor.