

NEARLY 4,000 COPIES OF THE ENTERPRISE GOING INTO THE HOMES OF MARTIN COUNTY AND TO COUNTY SERVICEMEN

THE ENTERPRISE

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VOLUME XLVIII--NUMBER 43

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, May 29, 1945.

ESTABLISHED 1899

Large Congregation Hears Annual School Sermon Last Sunday

Dr. W. R. Burrell, Retiring Minister, Bades Seniors Farewell

"This is your commencement, but it is my valedictory," Dr. W. R. Burrell explained to the members of the senior class in opening his commencement sermon in the local high school auditorium last Sunday morning before a large congregation. The minister, retiring as pastor of the Baptist church here after devoted pastorates, pointed out that the meeting would possibly be the last of its kind he would be able to attend. The minister, despite advanced years, continues unusually active and will leave for a cottage in the mountains possibly some time next week.

Basing his sermon on the first chapter of Galatians, first verse, "Stand fast, therefore, in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made you free," Dr. Burrell said:

"It is eminently fitting that what is called 'commencement' in the life of a graduating class in our public schools should be closely associated with the Christian Church and the Christian religion, for, in its essence, all true education is simply Christianity moving in the field of enlightenment.

"The major task of education, as of Christianity, is the release of souls, minds and bodies from every form of bondage. If the soul shall make you free, you shall be free indeed, and 'The truth shall make you free,' are simply two ways of saying the same thing, for our Savior declared that He was 'the truth' . . .

"First of all, then, both of these great institutions are committed to the task of making free that most wonderful thing in us. For the want of a better word, we call it 'personality,' but what it is or how to define it no man knoweth save only that it is that which makes us what we are. It is the you that makes you. So marvelous is this and so sacred that even God will lay no coercive hand upon it. God will plead; He will sacrifice even to the death of His Beloved Son, but He will never force, never compel the surrender of this, the center and soul of our being, even to himself for our eternal good. This is the divine spark, the good within us which is the end and purpose of all redemption. If this is bound in the fetters of ignorance, superstition of sin, it means loss of all that is good in life, both now and hereafter. This we must nourish and keep free even as we would keep our most sacred honor. Any surrender to bondage in any way whatsoever is to surrender life itself, and anything that would help to strengthen and enlarge this divine freedom is to be sought, used and treasured as the noblest thing in life.

"Scarcely less valuable and necessary to our well-being is the freedom of our minds. Nothing can be more intolerable than the fettering of the human mind, and even when done in the sacred name of religion it is an insufferable affront to all that is great and God-like in us. We have, all too sadly seen and terribly suffered from, what that means in Germany, for instance, where an entire generation has been educated and seduced from the knowledge and religion of the great and noble fathers and faith of the race until they have become a race of degenerates and brutes, sadists who outdo the most savage tribe of even darkest Africa.

"In the third place we must keep our bodies free from the bondage of evil habits. When these bodies, intended to be our obedient servants and the temples of the Holy Spirit, begin to usurp the master's place and through indulgence or evil habit degrade and defy our better instincts and become instruments of wicked devices, then our state is sad indeed. Here, the word of the Master is pertinent and imperative: 'Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine lest they turn again and rend you.' Oh, the rent and torn bodies and souls of men and women that we see all about us, people, often superlatively endowed, who thought they could play fast and loose with this great law."

In conclusion, Dr. Burrell said, "See to it then, young people, that inasmuch as you are the custodians of yourselves, you are also of the dearest hopes of the world; for, as St. Paul tells us: 'The whole creation is waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God that it also may be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the liberty of the Glory of God.'"

Oak City Negro Is Badly Cut Near Here Recently

Richard Davis, Goose Nest Township farmer, was dangerously cut by Dennis Jones near Oak City a few days ago. The man was sliced on the arm and another blow struck near the victim's heart.

WHERE HERMANN SOAKED IN STYLE



YOU CAN GET A GOOD IDEA of the bathtub in which No. 2 Nazi Hermann Goering used to soak his overample figure, from this photo taken in his wrecked summer residence at Berchtesgaden. Sitting side by side in the tub with room to spare are correspondent Howard Cowan and Pfc. Pete Cogan of Newark, New Jersey, just demonstrating. (International)

ROUND-UP

Five persons were arrested and temporarily detained in the round-up handled by local and county officers last week-end, the list of week-end inmates including at least one habitual imbibor. In addition to three drunks detained in the house-gow, two persons were jailed for alleged larceny and receiving. One of them was released when no charges were brought against him. He was turned over to military police. Three of those arrested were white, and the ages of the group ranged from 18 to 49 years.

"Service Roll" For Oak City Schools

As their farewell gift to their alma mater, the seniors are presenting to the Oak City School a "service roll," carrying the names of all the graduates who have or are now serving in the armed forces. Made of light oak and decorated with the Stars and Stripes and eagle, the service plaque will carry the names of the three youthful graduates who made the supreme sacrifice and that of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the last President, will head the list.

Activities for the 1944-45 term are rapidly drawing to a close at Oak City. Mrs. J. B. Bowers presented her pupils in a music recital on the 18th, and Rev. Robert S. Hough of Tarboro preached the commencement sermon Sunday afternoon to a large congregation in the school auditorium.

Class exercises, centering around the playlet, "They Gave a Party," will be held Friday evening of this week at 8:30 o'clock in the auditorium here. Dr. E. E. Pittman, chairman of the local board, will present the diplomas. Class officers are: Frances Raynor, president and valedictorian; Elwood Everitt, vice president; Hazel Etheridge, secretary-treasurer; Bobbie House is the salutatorian. The final exercises are under the direction of Miss Madge Lane, English teacher.

County Young Man Promoted To Private First Class in Army

An Eighth Air Force Service Command Station, England.—William W. Ward, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Ward, Williamston, N. C., has recently been promoted to Private First Class at this strategic air depot where battle-damaged B-24 Liberator bombers are reconditioned for further combat against the enemy.

Pfc. Ward is assigned to duty as a mechanic in the transportation division, where he assists in the repair and maintenance of the many trucks that are necessary for the movement of vital supplies at this major repair and supply base.

A 1941 graduate of Bear Grass high school, Pfc. Ward was engaged in farming prior to his entry into the service at Fort Bragg, N. C., in May, 1943. After technical training he came overseas in February, 1944.

CHANGE IN MEETING

The Martin County War Price and Rationing Board will meet on Wednesday instead of Friday of this week, it was announced by Chairman "Frosty" Martin. The change, announced for this week only, is being made to make it possible for the board and panel members to attend commencement exercises in the various schools.

The board members, Messrs. Martin, Roebuck and Crisp, will meet here from about 10 o'clock until 5 tomorrow afternoon, and the members of the various panels will meet at 7:30 tomorrow evening to review the different types of applications for rations.

COMING HOME

A prisoner of the Germans for two years and two days, T/Sgt. Eli Clayton Rogers is now on his way home, according to letters and a cablegram received from the young man yesterday by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eli Rogers of Williamston. It was announced last Thursday that he had been returned to military control. The messages received yesterday stated that he was liberated on May 3, and that he was getting along all right and at the time the cable was sent he was in France and on his way home.

Wreck Three Liquor Plants And Arrest Persistent Violator

Apparent Increase in Illicit Liquor Business in the County Recently

Battling to check an apparent increase in the illicit liquor manufacturing business, ABC Officer J. H. Roebuck and Deputy Roy Peel last week wrecked three liquor stills and arrested an alleged violator of the liquor laws. The increase in the questionable business is hard to explain at a time when the manufacturers could make good money farming and when the consumers could do nothing better than invest their extra money in war bonds. Officer Roebuck would not comment on the exact status of the illicit business at the present time, other than to say that he had work to do.

The first of the plants wrecked last week was found in the Gus Lane section of Cross Roads Township where a 50-gallon capacity oil drum was torn up and 100 gallons of molasses beer were poured out.

Raiding along the Martin-Edgecombe boundary in Hamilton Township, the officers wrecked another 50-gallon capacity oil drum used as a still and poured out 250 gallons of molasses beer.

Striking across the county on Wednesday, the officers wrecked their third 50-gallon capacity gas drum still, poured out 50 gallons of beer and confiscated four gallons of white liquor near the plant.

Armed with a search warrant, the officers searched the home of Milton James, a victim of rheumatism

DEFEAT ENEMY

With the Dixie Division in Mindanao—(Special)—The 31st Infantry Division battalion of which Pvt. Garland B. Wynne of Williamston, N. C., is a member, defeated a force of 600 Japs on the Sayre National Highway recently in what was described as "the first meeting engagement in the Pacific war." A meeting engagement is a battle in which two opposing columns marching head-on collide. Wynne's battalion met the enemy just before midnight and the fight raged in the tall cogon grass on either side of the road until dawn, when the Japs broke and retreated. Rifleman Wynne is the son of Mr. B. D. Wynne, of 107 Cherry Street.

Powerful Attack Is Made on Yokohama By B-29's Yesterday

Japs Losing Gradually in the Bitterly Contested Fight For Okinawa

Virtually destroying Tokyo as a strategic center in previous raids, American airmen yesterday turned on Yokohama with their B-29's in force. The results of the raid were not immediately disclosed, but the nearly 500 Superfortresses are believed to have almost knocked out the city, Japan's third largest, as far as its usefulness to the war is concerned. American losses were not officially announced, but the Japs claim quite a few of the air giants were shot down.

The Pacific war is traveling now in a definite direction, some observers declaring that the island-hopping phase is nearing an end, that the air war will get first consideration right on. During the meantime, the Japs are withdrawing from their ill-gotten possessions to form a tight defense in the home area.

Recent successes scored by the B-29's and the preparations for carrying the fight to Japan on an ever-increasing scale have caused much optimism in some quarters, and it has been predicted in unofficial circles that it is possible to knock the Japs out by the first of the year, if not before Christmas.

During the meantime, the bitter fight for Okinawa continues. American troops yesterday scored large gains and now occupy two-thirds of the island capital of Naha, but they are still meeting strong resistance in the center of the line around Shuri despite reports that the enemy was withdrawing to the south.

The Japs, it is admitted, are causing heavy losses with their suicidal aerial attacks. Striking recently in the Okinawa area, the suicide squads sank a light naval ship and damaged a dozen others. Boys returning from the bloody-fighting area, declare our losses are heavy, but officials declare that they are no larger than was to be expected. The recent aerial attack cost the Japs 77 planes.

In the Philippines, MacArthur's forces have captured Santa Fe, city guarding the rich Cagayan Valley in northeastern Luzon, where an estimated 30,000 Japs are being herded for a last stand.

On the home front, restrictions on building construction have been relaxed to some extent. It is now within the regulations to build a dwelling up to \$1,000 without a permit.

Quite Ill

Partially recovered from a heart attack suffered several weeks ago, Mr. Frank Hitch, retired highway engineer, had a relapse last week and was removed to a Washington hospital Thursday. He has been seriously ill since that time, reports stating that there is little change in his condition today.

Change in Hours

First scheduled for 8 o'clock, the remaining events on the commencement program in the local schools will be held at 8:30 o'clock, it has been announced by Principal Sam Bundy. The seniors will hold their exercises Thursday evening at 8:30, and Rev. W. M. Maness of Tarboro will deliver the literary address Friday evening at the same hour.

Personal Property Values in County

Despite a quarter million dollar loss in one township, personal property values as assessed by the list-takers this year for Martin County are \$329,587 greater than they were a year ago, according to a comparison report just released by Tax Supervisor M. Luther Peele. The huge loss of slightly more than a quarter million dollars was reported in Jamesville Township where pulp wood stock of the North Carolina Pulp Company was reduced or just about wiped out from the previous year. All other townships forged ahead to show gains ranging from a few thousand in Bear Grass to \$267,370 in Robersonville. The value of property held by colored citizens shows a gain of 21 per cent while the value of property owned by white citizens, showing personal property listings, gain or loss and percentage variations, if any, are offered by townships as reported by white and colored owners.

A review comparison of real property listings is scheduled for next week and it is to be followed by a review of total property values in the county, exclusive of corporation property listings.

	White				Colored			
	1944	1945	Gain	Pct.	1944	1945	Gain	Pct.
Jamesville	\$ 1,277,361	\$ 1,019,423	\$ 257,938*	*20.2	\$ 41,219	\$ 45,461	\$ 4,242	10.2
Williams	89,517	100,359	10,842	12.1	10,851	16,920	6,069	55.9
Griffins	277,894	293,508	15,614	05.6	17,110	20,204	3,094	18.0
Bear Grass	244,003	250,973	6,970	02.8	25,191	28,124	2,933	11.8
Williamston	1,253,803	1,397,472	143,669	11.4	67,564	91,210	23,646	35.0
Cross Roads	187,950	206,203	18,253	09.7	20,096	25,218	5,122	25.4
Robersonville	780,458	1,019,182	238,724	30.5	104,517	133,163	28,646	27.4
Poplar Point	105,235	113,625	8,390	07.9	8,400	11,354	2,954	35.1
Hamilton	276,677	310,920	34,243	12.3	60,223	71,550	11,327	18.8
Goose Nest	357,037	370,121	13,084	03.6	108,875	118,578	9,703	08.9
	\$ 4,849,935	\$ 5,081,786	\$ 231,851	04.7	\$ 464,046	\$ 561,782	\$ 97,736	21.0

*—Denotes decrease.

Bond Sales Make Fair Gain In Martin County

Sales Gain \$47,000.00 During Second Week Of the Current Drive

Before the people at home start complaining about being bombed with requests to contribute to worthy causes and buy bonds, they should ponder over a report coming from a Martin County boy who is toughing it out on Okinawa.

Writing to relatives in the county the young man said that he had been through right at 700 air raids, that fifty of them came in a single day, leaving them nervous, to be sure, but more determined than ever to carry on the fight.

In view of the fact that the war isn't over in the Pacific and in the face of the casualty reports still coming in and the sufferings your neighbors' boys are experiencing, it isn't asking too much of any person in this county to forego trips, routine and special events and save every nickel for war bonds.

Finals In Colored Schools This Week

Vacation days for approximately 3,700 colored children will begin the latter part of this week when the 22 Negro schools end the 1944-45 term. Most of the schools will complete the term Friday, but formal exercises will be held in only a few cases.

The elaborate program for the colored high school here has been announced, but no program for the Parmele school could be had immediately.

Principal W. V. Ormond announces that the first two grades in the Biggs school will appear in a play Wednesday evening, and that a debate, "The hypocrite is a more despicable character than the liar," by the seventh grade boys, and an allegory, "The Search for Happiness," by ten girls, will feature the final program on Thursday night.

Principal Geo. Hyman's first two grades will appear in a vaudeville Wednesday evening to mark the first in the series of program events at the Salsbury school near Hassell. The third and fourth grades will appear in a one-act comedy that night. Thursday night the grammar grades will present the farce comedy, "The Only Man on the Jury," and a minstrel to mark the closing there.

Hamilton is presenting an operetta Wednesday night at 8:30, and the elementary grades will present an original musical novelette and May pole drill Thursday night at 8:30 to end the term.

The Robersonville Graded colored (Continued on page four)

Two Minor Wrecks In County Recently

No one was hurt and no great property damage resulted in motor vehicle accidents in the county recently, according to reports reaching here yesterday. Damage estimated at \$100 was done to R. A. Edmondson's car last Thursday afternoon when it was sideswiped by a truck owned by the Ormond Wholesale Company of Greenville and driven by Hezekiah Anderson. The truck started to pass the Edmondson car, Officer Edmond Early stated.

Driving toward Williamston on Highway 125 last Sunday afternoon, James Donifro, sailor stationed at Edenton, ran off the hard surface on the Whitley curve and lost control when the car skidded into the path of a car driven by John Fenner Bonds. Damage to the Bonds car was estimated at \$25 by Cpl. W. S. Hunt.

Earlier in the week, Willie Mack Bryant wrecked his car near Hassell, but no damage estimate could be had.

EXCEEDS QUOTA

Martin County's \$643 quota in the American Cancer Society fund drive has been exceeded by a fair margin, according to a report released yesterday by County Chairman Clarence W. Griffin. A check for \$667.65 was mailed the N. C. Division, Field Army of the American Cancer Society, by the chairman this week.

Three towns raised approximately \$370—Williamston, \$225; Robersonville, \$138, and Oak City, \$7—the schools, both white and colored throughout the county, carrying the drive to the top.

Surfacing Main Streets In Town Of Oak City

Under a contract let some time ago, Kiker and Yount, contractors, are surfacing several of the principal streets in Oak City. Grading work was started Monday, and the streets will be covered with an asphalt-rock preparation. The contract price could not be learned here immediately.

	Quota	Sales
Jamesville	\$ 14,750	1,814.75
Williams	7,300	2,381.25
Griffins	18,500	2,381.25
Bear Grass	13,000	4,950.00
Williamston	157,500	57,281.25
Cross Roads	11,300	6,225.00
Robersonville	111,300	48,856.25
Poplar Point	7,300	7,725.00
Hamilton	14,750	12,112.50
Hassell	7,500	
Goose Nest	11,300	3,225.00
	\$371,000	\$147,406.25

Robersonville last week almost doubled its sales over those of the first week, according to a report released by Chairman D. R. Everett.

Sales in Cross Roads were almost three times greater, but all the pledges made to Chairman Paul Bailey at the rally last Wednesday night apparently have not been met. But the chairman has confidence in his fellowman and he feels certain that the pledges will be met and the quota exceeded very shortly.

An error was made in the first report for Jamesville, and while the sales are still not up to the first report, the sales showed an increase last week.

Williamston dragged through the week with about a \$7,000 gain, and during the time free tickets were being offered for a special bond show at the Marco theater tomorrow night. It is not too late to buy a bond and get a free ticket to the special show, one that was reviewed just a few days ago in Life magazine. The banks will be closed tomorrow, and the bonds must be purchased at once from them, or from the post office before 6 o'clock Wednesday evening.

Williams Township, one of the smallest in the county, really got underway last week when Chairman Chas. Daniel reported a jump from \$75 to \$2,381.25.

(Continued on page four)