

Reviews Costs Of Operating School Busses In County

Worn-Out Equipment In Increased Operating Costs Last Term

Reviewing the cost of operating the school busses in this county last term, the board of education recently found that badly worn equipment and a general rise in prices had boosted the figure from \$425.00 spent during the 1943-44 term to \$500.77 for the 1944-45 operating period. The board members delved deep into the figures and concluded that the record was not so bad, after all.

To operate one bus last term, the board spent the \$500.77 as follows: driver's salary, \$121.00; gas and oil, \$104.85; mechanic's salary, \$170.30; parts, \$87.46; tires and tubes, \$13.50; insurance and license plates, \$3.16. The per mile cost for operating each bus, on an average, was ten cents, or \$8.40 per pupil for the year. The per child cost in 1943-44 was \$7.35 for the year.

The county is operating thirty-seven busses for white and three for colored children, and the vehicles are being operated at just about one-fourth the national average cost. The marked comparison in costs is supported by volume, but over-crowding and skimpy service enter the picture, too. It was pointed out that, on an average, 57 white children are crowded into each bus, that the average load for the three colored busses is 91 children. The latter figure, while sounding terrible, was explained by the superintendent when he pointed out that one or two of the busses serving the colored high schools in the county picked up and delivered children to the elementary schools while en route to the final destination, that one bus would pick up and deliver a number of children to one elementary school and then pick up others along the way and deliver them to the next elementary school.

On an average the forty busses transported 2,388 children each day, 1,493 elementary white and 148 elementary colored and 622 white high school and 125 colored high school pupils. The busses traveled 1,159 miles each day or approximately 140,000 miles during the term at a total cost of \$20,030.80. The busses serving the white schools averaged 25.8 miles and the colored busses, 68 miles daily.

Mechanics are rushing to have the busses ready for the new term opening on the 30th of this month. The job is a big one since some of the busses are ten years old this year. The county has been promised several new busses, but there is some doubt if they will be made available for use during the early part of the new term.

Ninety-five Tires Allotted by Board

Ninety-five tires—82 for passenger cars and thirteen for trucks—were issued by the Martin County War Price and Rationing Board last Friday evening.

Passenger car tires were issued to the following: James A. Hassell, H. G. Godard, Clyde Revels, Elbert Tice, J. D. Knox, J. S. Ayers, Zeb Brown, Mrs. Daisy Lewis, Paul Bailey, W. Mayo Harrison, R. R. Carson, W. S. White, S. H. Mobley, S. G. Burnett, Sgt. J. E. McCormick, J. Edward Corey, A. F. Coltrain, Joseph Holliday, C. A. Hough, Dannie Mobley, H. M. Peel, R. N. Turner, Daniel Gurganus, A. L. Hardy, Geo. L. Cooper, Z. S. Cowin, J. D. Beach, Mack D. Leggett, W. G. Thomas, Paul Johnson, James E. Keel, Kelly Rawls, Raymond Heath, Chester Taylor, D. A. Brown, L. R. Andrews, W. C. House, A. C. Roberson, J. B. Coltrain, Roy Godard, Leamon Beach, Cecil G. Leggett, C. J. Freeman, Archie T. Coltrain, Richard F. Everett, Warner Bailey, Bryant Ward, Andrew Kirby, W. J. Beach, J. W. Griffin, J. Dawson Lilley, Slade, Rhodes Co., Arthur Peaks, Harrison Land, C. M. Hurst, N. W. Worsley, H. W. Ford, T. B. Leggett, Charles Everett, William J. Roberson, Howell Warren, Jr., George Hopkins, D. L. Peel, P. C. Barber, J. Daniel Biggs.

Truck tires were allotted as follows: Barnhill Supply Company, J. B. Everett, J. R. Coltrain, John Gurkin, Allen Griffin, J. L. Coltrain.

Returns After Long Service In Pacific

After spending thirty-two months in the Pacific Theater of Operations and participating in five major invasions, Miller Harrell recently returned to the States, and is now spending his furlough here with Mrs. Harrell, the former Miss Frances Bowen.

Pvt. Harrell was connected with a combat engineering outfit of the U. S. Marine Corps. "So far as I am individually concerned, the Japs or anyone else may have the South Pacific Islands. There is nothing romantic or interesting about them," Harrell said.

County Youth Badly Wounded On Iwa Jima Five Months Ago

Seriously wounded on Iwa Jima about five months ago, Pvt. Roland Cherry recently wrote his wife, former Miss Motie Bell Taylor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Taylor, stating that he was rapidly recovering in a rest camp in Hawaii. In addition to a serious wound in the lower intestines, Pvt. Cherry had all his teeth knocked out. Fortunately, according to Cherry, they have been replaced.

The young man, son of Mrs. Marshall (Tan) Cherry, has been in the South Pacific for one year. The young man in his last letter, dated August 14, said, in part:

"Today, I am in fairly good condition. Now that the war is over, how could anyone be happy? No more killing and lots of the boys will now be able to return home to their families. Last night everything went wild, and I cried. Tears rolled down my cheeks, I was so happy. I walked to the church, went in and knelt at the altar. When I looked around the church was almost filled with boys, all giving thanks to God for giving us Peace again. That was a wonderful few minutes that we spent in the little church that night."

More Men Report For Pre-Induction Exams

Twenty-five Report Tuesday For Their Pre-Induction Tests

Twenty-five Martin County young white men were called Tuesday to report to Fort Bragg for their pre-induction examinations. Other than the order lowering the maximum age, no regulations have been changed as a result of the war's end. No men were called over 28 years of age, but one of the last group called volunteered and was sent to the center even though he is almost 29 years of age.

Only two married men are included in the list. Thirteen of the men come from the farm. Eight of those called are just eighteen years old, the ages of the others ranging from 20 to 29 years.

The county draft board did not have enough men ready for the call, but four others were transferred to this county from other boards to hold the list up to the number called. Names and addresses of the men called:

- Charles Edward Rogers, Williamston and Newport News.
- Henry Saunders Griffin, RFD 1, Williamston.
- James Robert Bullock, RFD 3, Williamston.
- William Bruce Whitehurst, RFD 2, Williamston.
- Douglas Desmond Taylor, Robersonville.
- Lynwood Carlyle Stallings, Newport News and RFD 2, Washington.
- James Devenwood Knox, Jr., RFD 2, Robersonville.
- Robert Roberson, RFD, Williamston.
- Elsworth Beacham, RFD 1, Jamesville.
- Reginald Murrill Manning, Williamston.
- Godfrey Erwin Dixon, Robersonville.
- Willard Grey Coltrain, RFD 1, Jamesville.
- George David Martin, RFD 1, Jamesville.
- Dallas Laverne Roberson, Williamston.
- Henry Irving Johnson, RFD 1, Robersonville.
- Johnnie Allen Manning, Robersonville.
- Curtis Andrew Haislip, RFD 2, Robersonville.
- Leo Burbank Swanner, RFD 2, Williamston.
- Elwood Ooster Dortmund, RFD 1, Jamesville.
- Bruce Whitfield, RFD 1, Robersonville.
- Jesse Elwood Everett, Hamilton.
- Bennett Pitt Heath, RFD 1, Williamston.
- Johnnie Franklin Scott, RFD 1, Robersonville.
- Perlie Bennett Lilley, Jr., RFD 1, Williamston.

Justice Hassell Has Five Cases In Court

Charged with creating a disturbance in the local bus station on Monday, July 30, Annie Bell Bryant and Olivia Brown were each taxed with the court costs, \$5.50, when their case was heard before Mayor J. L. Hassell last Saturday night. Participating in a heated argument involving only the two defendants, the two were reprimanded for creating a disturbance in public.

Arrested and charged with being intoxicated at disorderly, Roosevelt Bunch and Alexander Bunch were also given a hearing before the trial justice Saturday night. They were required to pay \$7.80 costs for disturbing the peace on Washington Street earlier that evening.

Threatening Jas. H. Moore with a deadly weapon at Jack Daniels' filling station here Saturday night, Roy Boston was placed under a \$100 bond for his appearance in the county recorder's court next Monday.

TRAFFIC INCREASE

Given all the gas they want or all they can pay for, motorists are appearing on the highways in this section in ever-increasing numbers, according to highway patrolmen and reports from other sources. The number of cars on local streets last Saturday night was possibly an all-time high. About the only thing standing between the motorists and a wild ride to yonder and back is the tire shortage. That will improve in time, and then more accidents are to be expected, certainly will more accidents take place if the speed limit is thrown wide open.

Strange Campaign Handled on Island By 45th Division

Two Williamston Boys Were Members of the Outfits Handling Task

(The story below, appearing in the second anniversary edition of the 45th Division (Thunderbird) Division, will be read with interest by people in this section. Captain Jas. S. Rhodes, Jr., was with the 45th and at the time the invasion was made, Lt. Russell Roebuck, son of Sheriff and Mrs. C. B. Roebuck, was one of the officers on the U. S. Knight which figured in the assignment. The story tells quite frankly that the invasion was a "flop"—ed.)

Very little has been printed about one of the strangest campaigns in which any element of the 45th Division ever participated—the taking of the Island of Ventone in the Gulf of Naples before the 45th had even set foot upon the Italian mainland.

It started about 3:30 in the afternoon on September 9, 1943. Officers reached the troop ship carrying the 3rd Bn., 157th Inf., that a task force of 50 men was to be created to carry out a special mission. Shortly thereafter the special force was taken to the destroyer, USS Knight.

It consisted of a squad of riflemen, a squad of 81 mm. mortars, a squad of heavy machine guns, a squad of chemical mortars and a detail of aid men.

At three minutes past 9 p. m. as darkness deepened over the blue waters of the Bay of Naples, the task force was put ashore on the Island of Ventone to eliminate a Nazi garrison there.

The men found their job already done for them. A raiding party from the 82nd Airborne Division had already landed and taken the Germans prisoner. The PWs were loaded aboard the Knight together with the Thunderbirds and Ventone was in American hands with troops of the 82nd garrison the island.

Kills Large Bear In Griffins Township

By the light of a flashlight held by Eugene Roberson, Sampson Hodges took deadly aim and killed a large black bear on the Edward Corey farm in Griffins Township last Friday night. Roberson and Hodges heard the bear tearing down and eating corn several minutes before they could get the black object in the focus of the flashlight. Keeping at a comfortable and safe distance, the bear finally came within range of the gun and light, and Hodges killed him with the first shot from a 12-gauge gun.

Sgt. Jimmie B. Cherry Gets Honorable Discharge

Sgt. Jimmie B. Cherry, local young man with 125 points to his credit, recently received his honorable discharge from the Army. In the service six years, he saw action in the South Atlantic and Pacific areas.

Junior Chamber Of Commerce In First Meeting Last Week

Mayor Hassell Challenges The Organizations To Build Hotel and Airport

With 26 Williamston young men and a few invited guests in attendance, the local Junior Chamber of Commerce held its first formal meeting in the local Woman's club last Friday evening. Walter Pittman, president of the Wilson Junior Chamber of Commerce, sponsor of the local organization, presided over the meeting. President Pittman was accompanied here by several Jaycees from the Wilson and Rocky Mount organizations.

Mayor John L. Hassell gave the town's and his personal blessings to the local organization and closed his brief remarks with the following statement: "I hope this organization will do its utmost to give Williamston a hotel and an airport."

T. Forbes, vice president of this district and former president of the Wilson Jaycees, spoke briefly and related the incidents that led to the organization of the local Chamber of Commerce. "We serve without compensation and it is the desire of every Jaycee to make this a better world and a better nation in which to live," Mr. Forbes said.

Ray Bandy of Rocky Mount, former vice president of the national organization and a former president of the State Jaycees, made an instructive talk on the work of the organization in the State and nation. In his closing remarks, he said, "You must be enthusiastic, have vim and vigor and a burning desire to make Williamston a better town and community. It is the duty and obligation of every Jaycee to remain ever active and keyed to active projects."

The local club adopted its constitution and by-laws and made formal application for entrance into the State organization. N. R. Manning and John Hollowell were elected as delegates to the state meeting which was held in Gastonia during the past week-end.

Clarence Griffin, president of the local organization welcomed the visiting Jaycees and made a short and interesting talk relative to the organization of a Junior Chamber of Commerce in Williamston.

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Will M. Ayers Found Dead Last Saturday

Will M. Ayers, 73 years of age, died in very unusual circumstances along a county road leading from Robersonville to his farm, last Friday night. Investigating the death, Coroner S. R. Biggs and Sheriff Roebuck and members of the highway patrol found no evidence of foul play, the coroner explaining that a heart ailment caused death.

A victim of a heart ailment, Mr. Ayers, who lives alone on farm not so far from Gold Point, had started to Robersonville to see a doctor. He had gone only a short distance when a wheel on his buggy gave way. He stopped at a neighbor's home, borrowed a cart, and hitched the buggy to it and was returning home when he apparently suffered a heart attack. Living in an out-of-the-way place, he was not seen until the following afternoon shortly after two o'clock. Going to the home, officers found his head resting between the cart body and wheel and part of the man's head torn off.

The mule had wandered over the farm during the night, dragging the cart and buggy with the man's head caught between the wheel and cart body.

He is survived by the following children, Heber Ayers of Newport News, Mrs. Bertha Daniels of Bethel, Walter Ayers of Bethel, Mrs. Isabelle Knox of Tarboro, Charles Ayers of Tarboro and Mrs. Helen Williams and J. W. Ayers of Colerain.

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

In the first few days of the postwar period and just about the time gas rations were lifted, highway accidents on Martin County highways and streets started pushing upward in ever increasing numbers. While it is no longer necessary to conserve gas and tires for the war, it is possibly even more necessary to conserve and drive carefully on old tires and equipment to save life, limb and property on the home front.

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.

Year	Accidents	Inj'd	Killed	Dam'ge
1945	4	0	0	\$ 175
1944	1	0	0	\$ 150
Comparison To Date				
1945	39	17	3	\$ 7550
1944	44	23	1	\$ 7850

Early Sales Average Right At \$44 Today

Nearly One Million Pounds On Floors Waiting for Buyers

Farmers Fairly Jubilant Over Prices Received for Sales Here Early Today

The first of the 1945 tobacco crop went on sale here this morning shortly after 9 o'clock, the opening sales attracting large crowds and bringing in big money for the producers. Early indications point to a banner season for the local market and its patrons this season.

No definite price trend could be determined immediately, but the first few thousand pounds of the new leaf sold right at \$44 per hundred pounds.

All buyers seemed very anxious to buy every pound they could for their customers, and the sales were lively and smooth. No tags were turned during the early selling period, and farmers generally expressed satisfaction with their first sales of the season.

All companies were buying, but the warehouse stepped forward in a few instances to hold up prices. The quality of the leaf is hardly up to that reported on the local market opening day, a year ago. It was pointed out, however, that the tobacco was ripe and that nearly all of it was of the smoking type. A few piles of tips were seen on the floors, and prices for them held right in line with those paid for the better grades.

With prices ranging for the most part in the thirties and up to 48 and 49 cents, there was no marked difference in them for the better and inferior quality tobaccos. It is fairly apparent that the man with the quantity rather than quality will be the man who will profit the most again this season.

The crop is weighing out fairly light, but even then sales this season on the local market will match or pass those of a year ago, several observers predicted.

It was estimated that nearly one million pounds of tobacco are on the four large warehouse floors here today waiting for the buyers. Fourth sales were filling up this morning, and possibly tonight, some farmers will start placing some on the floors for sale next Monday. The marketing rush is on, and if it maintains the current pace, it is possible that a holiday will follow within a short time or the four-day selling week will be adopted.

County Young Man Writes from Foggia Increase In Lard Likely Next Year

Writing from Foggia, Italy, to have his mailing address changed, Cpl. Julius Gurganus, said, in part:

"I enjoy reading The Enterprise very much and would like it sent here. Right now I'm in more or less central Italy or about half way down the boot. The country here is pretty in spring, but this time of the year it's rugged. Two days this week we had dust storms and now no one has anything real clean. We have plenty of showers and soap and that's the main thing.

"I use to be up at Fano, which is north of Ancona. That's where Geo. Roberson, I presume, left when he went home. At that time, I myself was with a fighter group right near him. Was glad to hear he is a civilian again. Guess I'll be around this army for quite a while as I only have sixty-three points.

"My job at present is an automotive supply clerk. I'm one of the fellows who issues auto parts for the trucks. It takes quite a few parts to keep them going as they are getting old. Also I might add that I'm in occupational air force, and there is no time limit for the fellows in it. We may be over here for quite some time, but I'd be afraid to say how long, as I may be wrong.

"I enjoy reading about the other fellows in The Enterprise from all over the world, so continue to print their letters, if possible."

Local Youth Awarded the Combat Infantry Badge

With the 32nd Infantry Division in Northern Luzon, P. I.—Private Spencer E. Coltrain, son of Mr. Jno. R. Coltrain, of Williamston, N. C., has been awarded the Combat Infantry Badge for exemplary conduct under enemy fire.

Entering the army in October of last year, Pvt. Coltrain has been in the SWPA for three months. He was assigned as a rifeman to Company G of the 32nd (Red Arrow) Division's 126th Infantry. He saw action in the Villa Verde-Santa Fe area in Northern Luzon, where the 32nd killed more than 9,000 Japs during the 119-day drive up the tortuous Villa Verde Trail in the Caraballo Mountains.

PAY PENALTIES

Approximately \$2,500 has been paid in penalties by the few Martin County farmers who planted in excess of their tobacco allotments, it was learned this week. Estimates upon which the penalties were paid, were made by the township committee, and they are subject to change, it was explained. If the estimates are too high, the farmer will be refunded some of the money he paid in. If they prove to be too low, the farmer will be billed for the difference. It was pointed out.

Mrs. Maggie Davis Died On Thursday After Long Illness

Funeral Services Were Held In Biggs Funeral Home Last Saturday 4 p. m.

Mrs. Maggie Jordan Davis, native of Williamston, died in the local hospital last Thursday evening at 10 o'clock. She had been in declining health for five years, spending much of that time in local and Virginia hospitals. Her condition became worse the early part of last week for treatment. Pneumonia was given as the immediate cause of her death.

The daughter of the late Joseph and Charity Latham Jordan, she was born in Williamston on June 8, 1871, moving when a child to Jamesville with her parents. She was married to John Davis in Jamesville and soon after her marriage located in Portsmouth. She was matron of an old ladies' home there for twelve years, resigning the position about five years ago on account of failing health. She underwent treatment in a Portsmouth hospital for a while and returned to this county about four years ago to make her home with a niece, Mrs. Leslie Hardison, in Jamesville.

Mrs. Davis was a member of the Methodist church for many years, and was held in high esteem by all who knew her. She bore her suffering patiently. She was the last member of her immediate family.

Funeral services were conducted in the Biggs Funeral home here on West Main Street last Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock by the Rev. Mr. Wood, Methodist minister of Plymouth, and Rev. W. B. Harrington, Baptist minister of this county. Interment was in the Jordan family plot in Woodlawn Cemetery here.

She is survived by a son, Hunter Davis of San Leandro, Calif., two grandsons and one granddaughter.

County Young Man Writes from Foggia Increase In Lard Likely Next Year

Housewives will be able to purchase more lard next year, for lard production will be about 100,000,000 pounds larger in the spring and summer of 1946 than this year.

Basing his prediction on reports of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, D. S. Coltrane, Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture, pointed out, however, that lard production will be less this winter than last winter. He said the national fall pig crop is expected to be about 13 per cent more than a year earlier. Marketings of 1945 fall-crop pigs will begin in late April, 1946.

Hogs now being marketed are from the 1944 fall pig crop, which was 34 per cent smaller than the record fall crop in 1943. Hogs to be marketed from October to April will be from the 1945 spring pig crop, estimated to be seven per cent less than that of the spring crop of last year.

Victim of War Gets An Artificial Limb

Losing his right leg below the knee in action over in France on June 12, 1944, Leroy Godard, son of Mrs. Jennie Holland Godard and the late Neal Godard of this county, is now equipped with an artificial limb and is learning unusually rapidly to walk all over again.

The young man is spending a few weeks in the county with relatives before returning to the hospital in Atlanta for his service discharge. He is among the first, if not the first young man from this county, to have a limb lost in the war replaced by an artificial one.

Macedonia Church Plans For Revival, August 26th

Beginning next Sunday night, August 26, a series of revival services will be held in the Macedonia Christian Church. On September 2, the Brambleton Avenue Choir of Norfolk, will have charge of the music, it was announced. The public is invited.

County Young Man Reports Eventful Record In Service

Gilbert Rogerson Joined Navy In 1940

Joining the Navy during the early part of 1940, Chief Machinist Mate Mack Gilbert Rogerson has seen much of the world, mostly the two main oceans, during his long and eventful service. The young man returned home recently for a thirty-day leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Rogerson of Bear Grass.

Following his basic training at Norfolk, he was assigned to the destroyer USS Oveston, and from then until late 1943 he saw service in all parts of the Atlantic, principally off European and African shores. "We were dropping depth charges on an enemy submarine in June, 1942, in the Caribbean Sea when the blast lifted the tail end of our ship out of the water and threw me against the main engine," the seaman explaining that he was confined to sick bed for almost two months. "The young man had quite a number of close calls, but the only other one that he spilled blood was off Iwo Jima when bomb fragments struck his right index finger and left a scar, Rogerson declaring that he did not consider the wound sufficient to support a claim to the Purple Heart. "I just did not want it after I had seen others receive the medal after having limbs torn from the bodies," he said.

After a few months spent on his second ship, the USS Dorset, he was transferred to the Letzue and went in the Pacific service. In all, he participated in eight major engagements, two in the Africa area, two in the Philippines and four in other Pacific areas. He was awarded the Bronze "A" medal.

Going on the Letzue when it was first commissioned, Rogerson made available the following story of its activities:

"The Letzue, although in commission only about a year, has an action-cramped record that started with the Navy's battles for the Palau Island group in September, 1944. Here the Letzue felt the first sting of Jap fire, an experience she was to know four more times before she was to leave the battle lines. At Palau an eight inch shell landed 25 yards off her bow, spraying the deck with shrapnel and injuring seriously one man.

It was at Palau, too, that the Letzue earned her first official recognition, a "well done" from Rear Admiral J. B. Ollendorf, USN, for what he called "excellent gunnery." In her first battle the Letzue was called upon to fire 3,300 rounds in three weeks in support of hard-pressed ground troops.

After Palau, the Letzue moved on to support the first phase of the Leyte campaign where she was attacked four times by Jap bombers, suffering two near misses and a strafing assault that wounded many men and caused some damage. The Letzue, nevertheless, had her revenge by knocking down one plane and damaging another.

The next "blood" for the Letzue came during the famous night battle of Surigao Straits. With the other destroyers in her squadron, she participated in a torpedo attack that was officially credited with the sinking of a Jap battleship. Surigao Straits is also remembered by her men and officers as the place where she earned her nickname, "The Lucky Lady Letzue," symbolized in color on her bridge by a curvaceous, undraped female.

This nickname was the result of her narrow escape from Jap suicide attacks by plane and small boat while she was on screening duty in the narrow straits, a fate that two other destroyers she had relieved had not missed. The "Lucky Lady" had the same attacks, but because of her gunnery, the skill of her Captain, Commander Berton Robbins, Jr., and what he termed "a lot of luck" she wasn't hit.

That the Letzue had chosen well in selecting a nickname and mascot was apparent a few days later at Leyte Gulf. The Japs launched an-

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Wounded Soldier Gets His Discharge

Cpl. Dallas G. Waters, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar G. Waters of Jamesville, was discharged from the U. S. Army with 90 points on Tuesday, August 14 at 11 o'clock a. m. His wife, Mrs. Margaret B. Waters, lives in Plymouth.

He entered the service in April, 1941, serving seventeen months overseas. While attached to the First, Third and Seventh Armies, he served in Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England, France, Belgium and Germany. Cpl. Waters was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in action on April 11. He also received the Good Conduct Medal, American Defense, European Theatre of Operations Medal and four bronze battle stars.

He has two brothers in service, S/ Sgt. Fenner T. Waters, now serving in the South Pacific, and Pfc. Robbie L. Waters, serving in France.