

USO Observes Its Fifth Anniversary Monday, February 4

Nearly 40,000 Members Of Armed Forces Visit Center

Five years ago on February 4, the late President Roosevelt designated USO to institute and operate a recreational and welfare program for all service people in the Western Hemisphere. Six independent agencies, the YMCA, National Catholic Community Service, National Jewish Welfare Board, YWCA, The Salvation Army and National Travelers Aid Association, joined hands to make USO possible, starting out with 300 clubs and reaching a growth of 3,035 operations at the height of World War I.

USO-Camp Shows were instituted to take entertainment to camps, hospitals and combat areas, then to occupied countries. The USO club opened here at the Service Men's Council on May 1, 1944, but through the efforts of Mrs. W. O. Griffin, Mrs. Myer Levin, Mrs. F. E. Weston, and Mrs. J. W. Watts, Jr., had begun to carry on an open house and free foods program at the Legion hut. This service became too strenuous as the number of service men increased. So an appeal to public spirited citizens was made, and a temporary organization was set up. Rev. John L. Goff being named temporary chairman. An appeal was made to National USO for support. Following an investigation a grant was made, and officially the Williamston USO Service Men's Council began operation on May 1, 1944. Without the pioneering of the above named group the growth of USO service could not have been possible. At a later meeting, Rev. John L. Goff was chosen chairman, Dr. John D. Biggs as treasurer, and Mrs. F. E. Weston as secretary. In August Mr. J. R. Leggett became a member of the staff, while efforts were being made to secure a director. On October 1, 1944, Mrs. J. D. Thrower began her very efficient service and has remained in that capacity to date.

During the period from May 1, 1944, through January, 1946, there have been 30,934 service men and women entertained or served, while 9,138 women have volunteered as either senior or junior hostesses. Mrs. W. O. Griffin has served as chairman of the senior hostess committee, while Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Keel Davenport has served in a like capacity for the Junior Hostess committee. Much credit goes to these women and their committees.

The local USO does not have any accommodations at the club for overnight guests, but through the courtesy and kindness of the citizens of Williamston, beds have been furnished for 1998 boys during this period. There are many more that were not secured or reported to the director. The churches of our city, the Woman's Club, and the P. T. A. have provided free foods for the boys ever since the doors were opened, and in addition, a fine Sunday evening supper has been given to the guests. The Kiwanis and Lions Clubs have assisted and provided gifts and commodities for the Christmas parties that have been held.

Everyone who has contributed to the United War Fund drive has made it possible for this service here and around the world. For USO's services which started in small communities, near camps, spread to large cities, near hospitals, to permanent bases of the Western Hemisphere, to Hawaii, thence to the Philippines, and now Japan.

The United Service Organizations—USO to millions of soldiers and their friends—recently estimated that in five years of work they have rendered service of one kind or another to more than a billion persons. This is the equivalent of more than 150 contacts for every individual in the uniform of the United States. With the end of the war some of these services were curtailed. The number of service clubs, for instance, has been cut from a peak of 3,035 to about 2,000 to date. At the same time work was continuing in Panama, Bermuda, the Antilles, Newfoundland, Alaska, Hawaii, and the Philippines and expanding in Japan. It continues, too, at separation centers, permanent camps, and hospitals in the United States.

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Man Badly Hurt In Knife Attack Here

George Shaw, colored man, was badly but not critically hurt when he was attacked by Herbert and "Boot" Brown in Duk-Inn on Washington Street here early last Saturday night. Arguing over an alleged dollar debt, the three engaged in a free-for-all fight. "Boot" Brown is alleged to have struck Shaw over the head with a bottle, and Herbert Brown, snatching a butcher knife from the victim across the forehead and gashed him on the neck. The assailants escaped and have not been apprehended. Shaw was treated at a local doctor's office, one report stating that several stitches were taken to close his wounds.

Exceed Paralysis Fund Goal In the County By Big Margin

Asked to raise a total of \$2,120, Martin County citizens exceeded that amount by several hundred dollars, County Chairman L. B. Wynne announced yesterday. To date, we have raised \$2,791.12, and a few schools did not get their reports into the office in time to have them included in the report. Chairman Wynne explained, adding that possibly the 1946 infantile paralysis fund drive will approximate \$3,000.

Commenting on the drive ending last week, Chairman Wynne declared, and the facts support the declaration, that the schools of the county did an effective job in advancing the cause. Williamston's elementary pupils and their teachers took the spotlight. The several theaters in the county did well with their free-will offerings; in fact, just about all the spots in the drive were bright.

The eight white schools reporting,

Ask Living Memorial For County War Dead

SICK JUDGE

On account of the illness of Judge J. Calvin Smith, the regular session of Martin County Recorder's Court Monday was called off. Most of the litigants and witnesses were notified in ample time to save them a trip to the old hall of justice. A victim of influenza and a cold, Judge Smith is improving and expects to be back on the bench next Monday when all the postponed cases will be heard.

When Judge Smith and his following did not show up, a large road delegation from Hamilton and Goose Nest Townships moved in to take possession of the court room for a short while.

Former Resident Reported Killed

Listed as missing in the Pacific since October, 1944, Wilbur Edward Anderson, radioman, 3/C, United States Navy, was recently declared killed in action by the Navy Department, according to a message received by his mother, Mrs. Bettie Allen Anderson, of Roanoke Rapids.

The young man, a resident of Williamston for several years, entered the service in November, 1943, and went overseas the following October. He is believed to have lost his life in the battle of the Philippines or about the same time he was missing. At that time he was serving on the destroyer escort, USS Samuel B. Roberts, which was reported lost in action.

Following his graduation from the Roanoke Rapids High School he studied at the University of North Carolina and entered the employ of the Virginia Electric and Power Company. He came to Williamston about the middle thirties and remained in the company's offices here for three years before being promoted and transferred. During his stay here he made many friends and was held in high esteem by his fellow-workers and all others who knew him.

Besides his mother he is survived by a brother, Marvin Anderson of Roanoke Rapids and a sister, Mrs. J. A. Suiter of Garysburg.

Buy Lot For Home On Marshall Avenue Here

Purchasing a lot on Marshall Avenue, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Harrison are planning to build there as soon as possible. Mr. Harrison stated that they planned to build small living quarters in a garage at once and live there until they could build their home.

TAGGED

Several Martin County persons and a few from outside the county were tagged during the week-end for not displaying the new 1946 tags on their motor vehicles. Few of the cases have reached the courts, but in those instances where the defendants are adjudged guilty a minimum fine of \$10 and about \$6.50 costs will be imposed. Patrolmen point out that it is unlawful to display any tag on a motor vehicle except those for the year 1946. In those cases where motorists still display out-of-date tags, they are liable to indictment and conviction in the courts. Two of the alleged violators of the license law, Capt. C. B. and Clayton Lynch, are appearing before Justice J. B. Whitfield in Oak City this evening for trial.

Dr. John Thigpen Died At His Home Saturday Evening

Funeral Services Were Held Here Yesterday Afternoon For A Beloved Citizen

Dr. John F. Thigpen, well known local citizen and retired practitioner-farmer, died at his home here on Warren Street last Saturday evening at 6:15 o'clock following a long period of declining health. He had been confined to his bed most of the time since last November and his condition was recognized as critical for about two weeks before the end. A victim of several ailments, Dr. Thigpen was forced to retire from active practice sixteen years ago. For several years he devoted his attention to farming interests, but more recently he was forced to abandon all his activities and spent much of his time at home and in bed.

The son of the late T. R. and Martha Parker Thigpen, he was born in Pitt County in the Bell cross section, not far from Conetoe. After spending his early life on the farm there he went to Kentucky where he studied and earned his license in the practice of veterinary medicine. He returned to Pitt County and practiced in Greenville for five years, locating in Williamston about twenty-five years ago. He was active in civic and community affairs here for a number of years.

Dr. Thigpen joined the lodge in Greenville during his residence and was active in Masonic circles for a long time. He was a member of the local Methodist church for almost a quarter of a century, and attended its service regularly until forced into virtual retirement by failing health. Loyal in the support of the church, Dr. Thigpen was devoted to his home and family and friends.

In 1919 he was married to Miss Estelle Sumner of Aulander and she survives with two sons, John F. Thigpen, Jr., of Williamston, and S/Sgt. Joseph Thigpen who is now stationed in Japan with the 2nd U. S. Airborne Troops; a sister, Mrs. B. F. Shelton of Speed, and four brothers, L. B. Thigpen of Palatka, Fla., T. R. Thigpen of Mount Olive, L. L. Thigpen of Richmond and J. J. Thigpen of Rocky Mount.

Funeral services were conducted from the late home yesterday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by his pastor, Rev. B. T. Hurley, and interment was in Woodlawn Cemetery here.

Police Department Suggests Parking Changes To Board

High School Group Asking For Recreation Center; Other Business Handled

A "living" memorial for Martin County's dead in World Wars I and II was proposed to the town board of commissioners in their regular meeting here last night when several other suggestions were submitted and regular routine duties were handled by the authorities.

Appearing before the meeting, Rev. John L. Goff, representing a Kiwanis Club committee, pointed out to the board that the trend was away from cold stone monuments toward something worthwhile for the living and in keeping with what at least fifty-six Martin County men laid down their lives for on the far-flung battle fronts of the world. After reviewing the war records, Rev. Goff explained that a federation of twelve counties were holding meetings for an interchange of ideas and meeting social needs and handling allied problems. He asked the board to name a delegate to the next meeting of the federation. No one was named.

The committee chairman then reviewed the progress made by both the local library and the tri-county bookmobile, and pointed out that within the next six or seven years possibly the county would want to maintain and operate a library service of its own, that possibly some plan could be worked out for the construction of a library and recreation center to stand as a living memorial for the county's heroes in the last two wars. The minister explained that there was no rush, that he wanted the board to give the proposal consideration and join in the movement to build a lasting and fitting memorial for the war heroes.

Just prior to the minister's appearance, a delegation of high school students went before the board and asked its aid in establishing a recreational center here. The spokesman for the small group explained that efforts were being made to get the Legion Hunt when it is vacated by the USO. The commissioners promised to do what they could for the teen-agers.

Dr. Edward Early appealed to the commissioners to provide an outlet for citizens living between Main and Washington Streets on the west side of the railroad of the ACL's Plymouth branch back of the Dixie Peanut Company plant. Negotiations are underway for extending Slade Street across the railroad, the board explained. Dr. Early then asked for

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Enforcement Crew Busy In January

ABC Officer Joe H. Roebuck and his assistants had a busy period during the month of January, according to a report just filed with the ABC board in this county. The officer, assisted by Deputies Roy Peel and Julian Roebuck, wrecked twenty-two illicit liquor plants, poured out four gallons of white "lightning" and 3,350 gallons of beer which was made mostly from molasses. In addition to the twenty-two stills wrecked, the officers upset five partial plants. Climaxing the January record was a raid in the Free Union section of the county. The officers found and captured a 100-gallon capacity copper kettle and poured out four gallons of beer at the plant. Two barrels of beer at a second plant, about one mile away. The copper kettle was one of the few taken in this county in the past several years.

Large Delegation From Hamilton And Goose Nest Plead For Better Road From Hamilton To Palmyra

County Agent's Office Calling For Tobacco Marketing Cards

Group Strikes At Apparent Political Angle In Program

Spokesmen Build Splendid Case For Their Claim To At Better Road

Seventy-five strong, a determined delegation from Hamilton and Goose Nest Townships appeared before the regular meeting of the Martin County commissioners in the courthouse Monday morning and ably supported a claim to a better road between Hamilton and Palmyra. The group, incidentally, spoke out against political maneuvering apparent in this section of the State, particularly as it affects slicing this county into blocks and opening feeder routes into tobacco markets in the neighboring counties. Heading the group as spokesman, Attorney Hugh G. Horton pointed out that the road system is favoring other sections, that "it is apparently based on selfishness, and that being true, we will be forced to tackle the problem from that angle."

It was alleged that a neighboring county had agreed to forfeit several thousand dollars of its allotment if a certain road would be included in the program in this county. It was pointed out that the people of this county, long suffering and patient and recognizing the tremendous task to be handled by the highway commission, never would have raised up arms if the road from Oak City to Council's station, near Hassell, had not been rammed down the throats of the people, apparently by outside interests, under the disguise of a federal aid project. Possibly the Oak City road is needed, and while no vigorous objections were sounded against it, representative citizens are anxious to know why it should be given priority over other roads that would serve more people and prove of greater value to the county, as a whole. "We are bogged down in the mud in winter and sand in summer, and grocery trucks have actually refused to service our stores, while the program moves to build a base and improve another road with only one family living on it," one spokesman remarked.

The delegation was orderly and forbearing, but underneath it was a tone that clearly indicated the people are anxious to learn more about the road program. They are told that material and equipment are not available, but contracts are being let for such projects as the Oak City-Council store road and for the widening of the Roanoke River bridge and for other projects. In advancing the case for the Hamilton-Palmyra Road, Spokesman Horton said that his plea was not a reflection on others seeking better roads. "But the large number of people living on the road and the fine farming land there are deserving of consideration," he said in appealing to the commissioners to push the project as rapidly as possible. "It will serve more people and advance the interests of Martin County possibly to a greater extent than any other project," Mr. Horton declared. He added that the good people of the two townships did not come to do battle, but to advance what they recognize as a just claim.

As a member of the delegation, Mr. J. A. Everett pointed out that there was only one small patch of woods on the Palmyra-Hamilton Road, that it serves farm and farm and a large number of families. "On Thursday of last week, eight vehicles had to be pulled out of the mud by Mr. J. E. Copeland's tractor," he said in pleading for help.

Mr. E. V. Smith, store operator on the road, declared that it has been impossible to get goods in and crops out. Salesmen and delivery trucks have refused to travel the road, it was pointed out.

Clinics will be held in eight more centers in the county during the next few days, as follows: Hassell, February 6 from 10 a. m. to noon; Oak City, February 8 from 10 a. m. to 1 p. m.; Smith, February 8, 10 a. m. to 1 p. m.; Slade farm, February 15, 10 a. m. to 1 p. m.; Cherry farm, February 18, 10 a. m. to 1 p. m.; Mary Cherry farm, February 19, 10 a. m. to 1 p. m.; and Williamston, February 20, 10 a. m. to 1 p. m.

Commissioners In Second Meeting Of Month Here Today

Recess Early Monday Afternoon Out Of Respect For Late Dr. J. F. Thigpen

Recessing early Monday afternoon out of respect for the memory of the late Dr. John F. Thigpen, the Martin County commissioners are returning for their second meeting of the month this afternoon when they will study road news.

At the meeting Monday, the commissioners handled routine duties, including the drawing of citizens for duty as petit jurors during the March term of court and for permanent grand jury service.

Prompted by interested citizens, the commissioners are recommending that the state highway commission take over and maintain one and one-half miles of road in Griffins Township, running via Ira Jones' to Highway No. 171. The board appropriated \$350 for forest fire protection, the clerk explaining that \$150 would be applied on the purchase of a fire lane plow and \$200 would be used for labor in operating the equipment. The State Forest Service is to furnish a tractor and match the amount appropriated for a plow. Details for operating the equipment were not revealed, but they will be worked out later, it was learned. Repairing to the courtroom shortly before noon, the commissioners were greeted by a large delegation from Hamilton and Goose Nest Townships who made an earnest plea in support of their claims for a hard-surfaced road from Hamilton to Palmyra. Attorney H. G. Horton was the main spokesman for the delegation, but quite a few from the two townships spoke in behalf of the general plea. No extension of time for listing property for taxation in the county was allowed by the board at its meeting Monday, meaning that all listings dated February 1 and after are subject to penalty provided by law. At their meeting this afternoon, the board members are studying a tentative program for widening and improving what some would call connecting roads. The proposed program, it is hoped, will eliminate most, if not all, water ridges in the county road system, and correct a bad condition that has existed for almost a quarter century. Following the study, the commissioners plan to make a personal inspection of the roads in company with District Highway Commissioner Merrill Evans and engineers. A definite date for the inspection has not been fixed, but they plan to make it on or about the 18th of this month.

Justice Whitfield Reports Activities

According to reports coming from Justice of the Peace J. Ben Whitfield, Oak City had a little crime wave last week-end. "It was nothing serious, but Officer Edmond Early had a right busy time for a while," the justice said. One was booked for hit-and-run driving, two were charged with operating motor vehicles with improper licenses and two were carried before the trial justice for fighting. Wiley Lyons, arrested and jailed for drunken driving, is alleged to have run down and slightly hurt two small colored boys, "Judge" Bunch and a Savage lad, on the Tarboro-Oak City highway at the edge of Oak City Saturday evening. He was chased and caught by Officer Early. Lyons is to be given a hearing tonight before Justice Whitfield. Oscar Cabe and Clayton Lynch, who were charged with operating motor vehicles without licenses, are to be given hearings tonight.

Thurman Spruill and Tom Thigpen, charged with operating motor vehicles without licenses, are to be given hearings tonight. They were fined \$5 each and taxed with the costs when they were carried before Justice Whitfield last Saturday evening.

Fire Damages Lamb Home Early Today

Starting from an overheated chimney, fire slightly damaged the W. G. Lamb home here on North Smithwick Street shortly after 3:00 o'clock this morning. The fire had burned the lathing about half way up the chimney in a back bedroom upstairs and was gaining a hold among the attic timbers when firemen reached there and soon brought it under control with a small hose line from the truck. The fire did not back up and smoldered the attic into other rooms and closets in the house. The fire was extinguished by the fire station and turned in the alarm. The early hour limited the number of spectators to a few neighbors.

Snatches \$120 From Theater Ticket Box

Prowling around the Marco theater on Houghton Street here last Saturday evening about 8:30 o'clock, a young colored man darted up to the ticket window, reached his hand through the little slot in the glass window and snatched approximately \$120. After clinching the money, the hold-up man could not get his hand through the slot, and Mrs. Bina Jackson Davis caught hold of his hand and tried to hold him until someone answered her call for help. The thief snatched his hand, broke the glass and cut Mrs. Davis' hand. It is believed he cut his own hand, but he continued to hold to the money and escaped. The daring robber was dressed in a brown suit with small stripes, a maroon shirt and a brown hat pulled well down over his forehead. Identification is possible, however. Police are working on a lead in the case, but no arrest has been made. The hold-up, made without arms or threat, was one of the most daring reported in crime annals here in years.

County Young Man Is Placed On Inactive List

Greensboro, N. C., January 31.—Lt. Clifton E. Ward, son of Mr. John A. Ward, Jr., Route 1, Williamston, N. C., received orders today, placing him on an inactive duty status with the Army Air Forces. This post, one of a network conducted by the A. A. F. Personnel Distribution Command, is designed to expedite a speedy return to civilian life for the veteran. While at this post, Lt. Ward was invited to enjoy the many recreational facilities available for his entertainment during the short period of his stay.

138TH TRANSFUSION

Little Miss Peggy Harrison, nine-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Harrison, received her 138th blood transfusion last week and with a goodly helping of Bill Hunt's blood she left the local hospital for her home last Friday afternoon feeling fit as a fiddle. Miss Peggy is returning to school, but will return for more transfusions in about six or eight weeks or when the white corpuscles overpower the red ones. The transfusion was given by the first of Mr. D. M. Robertson, who has been giving transfusions here for some time. Last week she was the guest of Mrs. E. C. Harrison. Leaving the hospital, the little girl and her father expressed great appreciation to the Kiwanians and the blood donors.

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Bad Weather Limits Patronage at Clinics

Comparatively few farmers have carried their work animals to the horse and mule clinics held in the county during recent weeks, the office of the county agent explaining that weather conditions had interrupted the work. Clinics will be held in eight more centers in the county during the next few days, as follows: Hassell, February 6 from 10 a. m. to noon; Oak City, February 8 from 10 a. m. to 1 p. m.; Smith, February 8, 10 a. m. to 1 p. m.; Slade farm, February 15, 10 a. m. to 1 p. m.; Cherry farm, February 18, 10 a. m. to 1 p. m.; Mary Cherry farm, February 19, 10 a. m. to 1 p. m.; and Williamston, February 20, 10 a. m. to 1 p. m.