

Guard Unit About Ready For Federal Inspection On 24th

More Than 100 Men Signed
Up By Organization;
80 Pass Physical Test

Martin County's newly formed National Guard unit is almost ready for federal inspection, leaders said early today. Coming here yesterday, Captain Henry V. Reid from Headquarters of the 252nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery Group of the National Guard, said he was very much impressed with the organizational work so far, and voiced the opinion that the temporary armory at the old municipal water plant should meet government specifications. It was explained that the inspecting officials would be mainly interested in army facilities and in the battery records. Work on the temporary quarters is progressing rapidly, it was learned.

So far 104 men have signed up for duty in the Guard. Eighty-eight have taken the physical examinations and eighty passed the tests. Other young men interested in joining the Guard are asked to contact Elbert S. Peel, Jr. At the present time there are no definite plans for further mass physical examinations, but if a sufficient number of additional men are interested, it is likely that arrangements for another mass examination can be made before federal inspection.

Officers, named by the sponsoring committee, are awaiting orders today to report to State Guard headquarters in Raleigh tomorrow for their physical examinations.

Several men have shown interest in the full-time job of ordnance repairman which is to be created when all equipment is made available. The job, however, has not been filled and others interested in it are asked

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Several Cases In Justice's Court

Justice Chas. R. Mobley handled six cases in his court here during the past few days.

Charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, Lafayette Peasley was bound over to the county court under bond in the sum of \$100.

H. C. Spruill, drunk and disorderly, was taxed with \$8.85 costs.

Charged with false pretense, Ivey James was required to reimburse the Employment Security Commission \$12.50 and pay \$5.85 costs.

Drunk and disorderly, John Rawls of Beaufort County was required to pay \$9.85 costs.

Jesse Rascoe was taxed with \$7.85 costs for being drunk and down.

Stella Andrews, charged with false pretense, was required to refund \$8 to the Employment Security Commission for compensation unearned and pay \$5.85 costs. A third defendant, charged with false pretense, died some time ago, scoring a victory in death over the law.

Local Lions Will Invade Goldsboro

Williamston Lions are making extensive preparations for invading Goldsboro next Tuesday when the clubs in this district hold their mid-winter convention in the Wayne capital.

Forming a motorcade, the Lions are leaving here that morning at 7:30 o'clock, accompanied by the Williamston High School Band, Miss Angela McLawhorn, who is to represent the club in the district beauty contest, and Miss Letitia "Tish" Welch, who will ride the local club's float in the big parade, beginning at 10:00 o'clock. The motorcade, with escort, is to include a special bus for the band, truck for the band instruments, and a goodly number of automobiles.

Special Lion club emblems are being prepared for the band members to wear on their caps.

Two-Day Extension School For Farmers

PUBLIC MEETING

A proposal to extend the town limits will be discussed at a public meeting in the county courthouse here next Monday night at 8:00 o'clock, and all interested citizens from within and without the town are invited to attend, ask any question and discuss the plan.

It has been reported that petitions have been circulated, calling for a vote on the proposal.

The people of the town and those just outside owe it to themselves to study the problems at hand and make certain how much longer already overburdened public services can be maintained and how needs vital to the health of all can be provided.

Prisoners Of War To Get Benefits

Martin County had quite a few men who were held as prisoners of war in foreign countries during World War II and who are now entitled to certain benefits under the Federal War Claims Act of 1948. Unfortunately some of the young men died before they could be liberated, and it is pointed out that surviving relatives may be entitled to the benefits.

Claims forms are now in the hands of Edgar Gurganus, Martin County service officer for the North Carolina Veterans Commission, and he will be glad to assist eligible claimants in preparing the forms at his office in Williamston.

Former prisoners of war may receive \$1 for each day of imprisonment on which the enemy failed to provide adequate food. Under certain conditions, civilian internees may be entitled to \$60 for each month of their internment.

Building and Loan Stockholders Meet

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Martin County Building and Loan Association will be held here in the office of Wheeler Martin, secretary, Monday morning, January 23, at 11 o'clock.

Stockholders of the organization have been given a special invitation to attend the annual meeting of the institution and participate in the election of officers and hear a report of the condition of the association which has now grown to be a million dollar organization.

Drops Dead While Working In Yard

John Simmons, 49 years old and a well-known painter here, dropped dead while working in his yard across the road from Sunny Side Inn about 10:00 o'clock last Tuesday morning. Death was attributable to a heart attack, County Coroner S. R. Biggs said.

Funeral services are being conducted this afternoon in the Black Swamp Church and burial will follow there.

Surviving are his widow, the former Madeline Simmons, and four children.

Daily Attendance In Local Schools Past Four Months

Fifty-nine Pupils Absent
Each Day On Average
During Period

The number of pupils absent each day on an average is almost large enough to claim two additional teachers, Principal B. G. Stewart said this week following a review of the figures for the first four months of the 1949-1950 term.

Up until last week the local schools had enrolled 1,047 pupils. From September 20 to the Christmas holidays, 21 pupils moved out of the school district and nineteen moved into the area. Since Christmas seven others moved away and nine moved in.

At the present time, the schools here have a membership of 1,019 pupils, an increase of about 25 or 30 over the membership figures recorded a year ago. On an average, 958 pupils attended the schools each day, leaving 59 unaccounted for. The attendance was only 94.2 percent of perfect.

Commenting on the absences, Principal Stewart said that many of them were traceable to farms where the little folks were held at home to help harvest the crops. One-third of the absences were due to sickness of the children.

Commenting further, the principal said, "Most parents keep their children in school unless there is a definite need for their help at home and on the farm or because of illness. We still have a few parents who impose upon their children's education," the principal said, explaining that the parents kept them at home to provide more spare time for themselves. "It is these children and those who remain at home due to lack of interest who cause us much concern and who make up the great part of the list of repeaters," the school man declares, adding that repeaters cost the State \$100 a year each.

East Carolina Man To Address P. T. A.

An address by Dr. A. D. Frank, chairman of the Department of Social Studies at East Carolina Teachers College, will be a feature of the January meeting of the Williamston Parents-Teachers Association to be held in the Graham School building Monday evening at 7:30 o'clock.

Dr. Frank will talk upon the subject of "World Citizenship." He is regarded as an interesting speaker and has been in much demand as a speaker by various clubs and organizations in this section of the state. He is a veteran of many years of teaching and lecturing at the college at Greenville.

Commission Case Workers In Meet

Field representatives and case workers for the Commission for the Blind in this district are concluding a two-day meeting here today. Mrs. O. S. Anderson, field representative for the commission in this district, is in charge of the program.

Those attending are Mrs. Mae Campbell, field representative of Wilmington; and the following case workers, Miss Winona Graham of Roanoke Rapids, Miss Ilda Townsend of New Bern, Miss Bernice White of Elizabeth City, Mrs. Esther Stone of Wilson, Miss Jennie Manning of Bethel and Mrs. Miller of Williamston.

Fourteen Cases Heard In County Court on Monday

Two Jury Trials Hold Court
In Session Until Late
In Afternoon

After handling a near record number of cases the week before, the Martin County Recorder's Court, in regular session last Monday, worked until late afternoon before clearing its docket of fourteen cases. Two jury trials prolonged the activities, and fines dropped to the lowest figure—\$200—in many months. Comparatively few spectators were in the court.

In the case in which William Quincy James was charged with drunken driving, the jury deliberated the greater part of one and one-half hours before finding the defendant guilty. Fined \$100 and taxed with the cost, James appealed to the superior court and bond was fixed in the sum of \$200. Arnold Modlin, Enoch Gardner, Wheeler Warren, Elwood Everett, Julius Manning and A. L. Smith served on the six-man jury.

Pleading guilty of operating a motor vehicle without a license, William Clifton Lawrence was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs.

Pleading not guilty of speeding forty miles an hour in a 35-mile speed zone, James Long of Williamston was adjudged guilty. Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the costs.

Charged with bastardy, Oscar Depreast Staton was sentenced to the roads for six months, the court suspending the road sentence upon the payment of the costs and \$3 a week for two years for the support of the child.

John Moff Gomer, pleading guilty of operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs.

Charged with violating the liquor laws, Oscar and Amanda Biggs carried their case before a jury and were found not guilty. It was reported that the defendants had a mighty close call, that only an all-night wedding feast next door saved them. Officers found several gallons of liquor in the Biggs home on the old Staton farm near Williamston, but the defendants declared that the celebrants at the wedding feast carried the liquor there to support the spirit of the occasion. Jurors serving in the case were, Julius Manning, Jimbo E. Newsom, Elwood Everett, A. L. Smith, Willie J. Knox and Arnold Modlin.

Pleading guilty of bastardy, Eugene Council was sentenced to the roads for six months. The road sentence was suspended upon the payment of the costs and the payment of \$6 a week during twenty weeks for medical services and support of the child. After twenty weeks, the payments are to be made at the rate of \$3 a week for the child.

Neither denying or admitting his guilt, William Henry Harris, charged with entering and receiving for six months, the court suspending the road term for two years, and the defendant is to violate no criminal law during that time.

Withdrawing his appeal, Levi Dixon was directed to appear before a Robersonville justice of the peace.

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Continues Quite Ill Following Operation

Mr. W. H. Williams, local man, continues critically ill today following an operation in a Rocky Mount hospital yesterday morning.

Construction Valued At \$400,000 In 1949

Fifty-Three New
Homes Are Built
Here Last Year

Nine Commercial Structures Built in Period
About \$117,000

Williamston's building boom, starting in the first postwar year, maintained itself and went on to set a new record last year, according to a report just released by Building Inspector G. P. Hall. Building permits, representing estimates except in those cases where contracts were entered into, were issued to fifty-three home builders. Thirteen permits were issued during the period for repairs to homes. Nine new commercial structures were either completed or started in 1949, and permits were issued for repairs on seven commercial structures.

Despite the addition of fifty-three new homes, living conditions are still a bit crowded, and homes and apartments are still at a premium.

The value of the fifty-three new homes was estimated at \$253,500, the estimates ranging from a low of \$1,500 for rental units to \$14,000 for individual residences.

Repairs to thirteen homes were estimated to cost \$45,700, the cost ranging from \$150 to approximately \$22,000.

The nine new commercial structures were estimated at \$117,650. Most of that amount is represented in the new hospital now well under construction on Liberty Street. Other buildings figuring in the commercial group are a storage house for the Marvel Package Company, and a shipping center for the Martin County Yam Growers Association on Washington Street. The cost ranged from \$600 to around \$100,000.

Repairs to seven old commercial structures were figured at \$19,940.00, Inspector Hall said in his report.

The year possibly recorded the largest construction volume than any other period in the history of the town, equalling that in several towns two to three times larger than Williamston.

While 1950 will hardly see the building boom maintained on such an extensive scale, it is expected that home construction will go forward, reports stating that a goodly number of families plan to build their own homes during the year.

Two Young Boys Attack Trainmen

Engineer M. H. Richardson of Portsmouth and Fireman J. M. Bailey of Hobgood were fired upon by a young boy when they drove a Coast Line freight train over the highway crossing on U. S. Route 64 between Robersonville and Everetts about 2:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

Using a bullet rifle, the youth, accompanied by another boy, fired on the cab, breaking the window beside the engineer and missing the man by a matter of a few inches.

Stopping their train in Robersonville, the trainmen reported the attack to police there, and they with county officers started an investigation. No arrests had been reported early today.

FIRST CHECKS

First checks, representing overpayments of national life insurance by members of the armed forces during the last war, were received in the county early this week. The first voucher, amounting to approximately \$250, went to Pete Fowden in Williamston, his co-worker, "Puddin'" Cooke, declaring that the owner "salted it down" with a ton of salt.

The checks are coming in to the county at the rate of about a dozen each day, the last being scheduled for delivery about next June.

Sweet Potatoes Move To Market

Sweet potatoes are moving in quantity from the local market to several of the big centers, reports stating that the sweets, packed under the trade name, "Drippin' Honey", are meeting with favor, and that repeat orders are being received. The brand is matching those established on several of the big markets years ago.

While several of the markets continue dull due possibly to the unusually warm weather, the demand for Martin County yams continues fairly good. Shipments are moving from the local market to Philadelphia, New York, Bridgeport and Providence, and other shipments will start moving into the Middle West shortly, it was stated.

Arrangements are being completed for handling potatoes for individual farmers, and those interested in shipping are directed to contact the organization officials at the shipping center on Washington Street near the Dixie Peanut Company plant.

Chicken Brooder Wrecked By Fire

Starting when a three-burner oil stove, fire wrecked a chicken coop and burned up a number of biddies on Thelma Street near the Wells-Oates Lumber Company plant on East Main Street here yesterday afternoon at 2:45 o'clock.

The fire was burning rapidly when discovered, but firemen brought it under control in a matter of minutes.

The loss was negligible, firemen reported.

No Report Received On Alexander Autopsy

Performing an autopsy in an effort to determine the cause of Mr. I. L. Alexander's death near Jamesville the early part of this month, Dr. Strauss, Norfolk pathologist, yesterday had not announced his findings, it was learned here today. Asked about the report the pathologist in a telephone message said that he had not completed all the laboratory tests and mentioned no definite time when the report would be made available.

NEW YORK TRIP

Walking away with top honors in the 1949 sweet potato contest conducted by the Martin County Yam Growers Association, five young county farmers are leaving Monday, January 30, on a free trip to New York City. The trip winners are, Lewis Gurkin, Dallas Cox, William Hardison, David Gurkin and Jack Woolard.

Other winners in the contest will be awarded prizes during the special extension school in the county courthouse on Thursday, January 26, it was announced.

Officers Wrecked Number of Liquor Plants Recently

Two Large Copper Kettle
Are Found In One Dis-
trict Last Week

Thought to have suspended operations right after the holiday season, manufacturers of illicit liquor are resuming their work on a fairly large scale, according to reports coming from the county's enforcement division headed by Officer Joe H. Roebuck. The officer would not comment on business prospects on the illicit liquor front, but he admitted that the operators were off to a fairly good start. Unofficial reports indicate that the price continues downward, that demand is weaker as a result of a general tightening-up on the general economic front.

After failing to register any success in their raids conducted the first few days of the new year, Officer Roebuck and his assistant, Deputy Roy Peel, scored on the 6th when they wrecked a 50-gallon capacity oil drum still in Hamilton Township. There was no mash at the plant, and business had the appearance of being "rotten" there.

Resuming their operations on Tuesday of last week, the officers found and captured a 100-gallon capacity copper still in Bear Grass Township, not so very far from the Sweet Home community. They wrecked six fermenters and poured out 600 gallons of sugar mash.

Returning to the same township the following day, the raiders captured another 100-gallon copper kettle and poured out 200 gallons of better-than-average mash or beer.

The next day, the raiders went through the same township to wreck an old oil drum still and pour out 200 gallons of rot-gut beer along the Beaufort-Martin boundary line.

Switching back to Hamilton Township on Friday, the officers tore down a plant equipped with a 30-gallon oil drum still, and three fermenters. The plant was located about three miles north of Hassell. The officers reported that they poured out 150 gallons of beer there.

Jamesville Works For Improvements

Progressive citizens of Jamesville and community are pushing a general improvement program, late reports declaring that much progress already has been made.

Given the land by Mrs. J. E. Smithwick, the town is developing a 90-spot cemetery near the southern town limits, near the Gaines and Kirkman Mill on Highway 171. A deed to the property was reported to have been executed yesterday.

Recognizing the need for better fire protection in the town and community, members of the Ruritan club and others are receiving donations to finance the purchase of a fire truck suitable for use in the rural areas. Donations are being made by property owners within and outside the town, it was explained.

Badly Hurt In Fall From Auto

Gary Stalls Joyner, two-and-one-half-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward E. Joyner of Birmingham, and grandson of Mrs. Evan Woolards of Williamston, was badly injured Sunday afternoon in a fall from a moving car driven by Mrs. Woolard.

Mrs. Woolard, Mr. and Mrs. Joyner and their young son were driving to Plymouth to attend the funeral of Mrs. Joyner's father, Mr. J. A. Stalls. Just this side of Dardens, the back seat door of the car came open and the small boy fell out. He was carried to the Plymouth Clinic, and, after an examination there, he was removed to a Rocky Mount hospital. Still a patient in the hospital, the little victim was said to have suffered a brain injury.

Annie Rooney,
Popeye,
Blondie,
and Little
Miss Muffet
join the
March of Dimes

