

Japanese Student Addresses Group In Local Church

Says Japanese Are Friends
Of Americans And Are
On Their Side

Speaking before missionary society groups from the various churches and other interested parties, Junichi Makamura, Kobe University professor who is doing graduate work at Duke University in this country, last Thursday evening in a talk at the Christian church here talked interestingly of his country's customs, explained the reaction to war and occupation and went on to say that the Japanese can be counted on the American side in case of future trouble.

Pointing out that the Japanese admit they started the war, Professor Makamura apologized for the atrocities committed by Jap soldiers and despots, declaring that all Japanese soldiers were not barbarians, and that the Japanese people generally did not know about the atrocities. "Closed in and oppressed, we were told that we had to fight," the speaker said.

It was declared that the United States won nothing in war, but the speaker said that America through its thoughtfulness and helpfulness in the occupation was making friends with the Japanese and winning the peace with his country.

He talked at length about the customs of his country, admitting that they were different from ours and that the Japanese did some peculiar things. "We eat fish raw, but not until they are properly cleaned and the white meat cut into thin slices. We then dip the meat into a special sauce and eat it with hot rice with chop sticks," Makamura said, demonstrating the use of the chopsticks. "You think that's terrible, but the Japanese can't understand how Americans can eat rare steak with the blood oozing out of it and that looks bad to us but it is all right for you," he said.

The professor talked about clothing and styles, declaring that the Japs were "wrapped up" in American styles, that they would sleep on wooden pillows to protect their hair-dos. "We raise little cotton and wool, and during the war we had a hard time. We made clothes out of fibers, and even today American clothes are much in demand since they are far superior to ours," he explained.

The adoption of American ways, particularly in sports, was explained and American words are common in the average Japanese's vocabulary. He displayed the dress worn, but said that most Japanese now wear American style dress on the streets, leaving kimonos for use in the homes.

Inflation is still bad in Japan, the professor explaining that while he made 10,000 yen a month, it took two months' pay to buy a suit of clothes.

He declared that most GIs enjoyed their stay in Japan, that since coming to this country after the war he had had no unpleasant experiences.

While conditions in Japan are still bad they are improving, the speaker urging the Americans to have patience a little while longer.

Stating that the A-bomb dropped on Hiroshima killed 200,000 people, the professor said that fire claimed most of the lives. At the center of the explosion, stone was melted. The clothes of people one-half mile away were burned by the lightning flash. "My father,"

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EPIDEMIC

Although not unduly alarming as yet, influenza is believed to be rapidly approaching the epidemic stage in this immediate area.

Based on the best estimates available, the disease now claims between 150 and 200 victims in this section, the count for the county possibly approximating 400, if not more.

As many as four persons in a family are known to have fallen victim, but in most instances, the ailment is not too severe.

Bonner Lashes Out At Federal Program

DANGEROUS

Local police were called on yesterday to help check the dangerous practice engaged in by motorists in this section.

It was pointed out that a short time ago twelve motorists drove across the tracks of an approaching train after the crossing signals and bell had gone into operation. So far no crossing accidents have been reported locally under those conditions, but officers, warned that there had been several in other places, are expected to enforce the law prohibiting motorists from running through the crossing signals.

Exams Held For Enumerators In County Monday

Training Period Will Be
Held In County Latter
Part Of This Month

Applying for jobs as census

enumerators, thirty-four county persons, including men and women, and at least one colored citizen, took a special examination in the Williamston Grammar School Monday morning. Sixty-nine had applied for the jobs, it was explained by Mr. Silverthorne of Washington who was in charge. It is possible that some of the applicants did not receive notice in time to take the examinations, and it is likely they'll be given an opportunity later this week. Several took the examinations week before last in Washington, and it is now fairly certain that there'll be sufficient personnel to fill the 32 enumerator jobs and handle the census job in this county, beginning early next month.

Those selected to take the census will enter a training school the latter part of this month. While no definite place has been determined for conducting the school, it is likely that one will be set up in this county. A combined school will possibly be held for the smaller counties in the district, one report said.

Those taking the examination in this county Monday include:

Hackney High of Oak City, Mrs. Dorothy Fleming and Mrs. Henry Gray of Parmele, Ernest Jones of Williamston, Mrs. Melba Wynne of Route 3, Williamston, Mrs. Daisy Rogers of Williamston, Mrs. Mildred MacArthur of Robersonville, Mrs. Elizabeth T. Brandon of Williamston, Chas. L. Daniel of Route 1, Williamston, Mrs. Ruth J. Wheeler of Williamston, Jas. L. Pritchard of Hamilton, James T. Edmondson of Williamston, W. H. Everett of Hamilton, Mrs. Vir-

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Injured In Fall At Mill Tuesday

Mr. Luther Taylor is recovering at his home on Route 1 for injuries he received in a fall at Martin Feed Mill last Tuesday.

Mr. Taylor, who was visiting at the mill, stumbled on the first step leading from the building and fell to the ground, hitting against the step railing and fracturing several ribs.

He received treatment at a local doctor's office and continued to his home.

Mother Of Professor Abdalla Dies In Selma

Mrs. Joseph Abdalla, mother of Professor Abdalla J. Abdalla of Williamston, died at her home in Selma last Thursday afternoon. A native of Arson, Lebanon, she was 56 years old and had lived in Selma for 39 years.

Funeral services were conducted in St. Ann Catholic Church, Smithfield, last Sunday afternoon and interment was in the Selma cemetery.

Asks Farm Group To Come Forward With Better Plan

Board of Commissioners In
Regular Monthly Meeting Monday Morning

Congressman Herbert C. Bonner, in a speech at Winton Monday night, lashed out at the federal farm program.

Citing the cotton and potato programs as "glaring examples" of inefficiency and ineffectiveness caused by a system of patchwork, the First District Representative called for a revision of the national farm program.

It was Mr. Bonner's first public speech following his announcement that he would seek re-election to Congress. His remarks were made before members of the Hertford County Farm Bureau in the courthouse at Winton.

"Figures show that farm income has declined in the last three years. In view of the stable conditions of the general economy," Mr. Bonner explained, "this should not happen."

"I am convinced," the Congressman went on to say, "that the farm program needs a general overhauling, not a system of patchwork to cure the maladjustments we see today."

He denounced the negatively critical position taken by farm leaders in regards to the Branran Farm Plan. "Some new plan must be adopted, whether we like all of it or not," Bonner asserted.

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Education Board Hears Plea For Parmele School

No Opposition Offered To
The Plan Calling For
Oak City School

A delegation, headed by Messrs. V. A. Ward and C. L. Wilson and Rev. J. M. Perry and Jim Gray, Sr., appeared before a meeting of the Martin County Board of Education Monday morning in behalf of the Parmele Negro High School. After discussing the matter at some length, the delegation was advised that the board in its last November meeting upon the motion of Member Cecil Powell and a second by Member Ernest Edmondson, recommended that a Negro High school be built in Oak City and that the one in Parmele be continued.

Rev. J. M. Perry, learning of the recommendation, said he had no further comment, that that was what was wanted.

While no opposition to the Oak City project was openly advanced at the meeting Monday, representatives of the Parmele school are said to have opposed it in conferences with the governor and members of the State Board of Education. The State Board Panel had approved the Oak City project, and nothing was said about discontinuing the school at Parmele. Apparently, it was assumed that the withdrawal of the pupils in the Oak City area from the Parmele school could eventually mean the closing of the high school unit at Parmele.

The matter has been discussed (Continued on page eight)

PROGRESSING

The annual Red Cross Fund Drive is progressing very well in this chapter, Chairman G. G. Woodard announced late yesterday.

Approximately one-fifth of the \$2,572 quota had been and reported up until that time, mostly by the special gifts committee in Williamston's business district. Few other reports have been received, but more information is expected shortly.

Federal Housing Authority Project Being Considered

Town Board Discussed Varied
Business Matters At
Meeting Last Night

A federal housing authority project, tentatively calling for the construction of fifty homes for white and fifty for colored occupants in Williamston, is before the town authorities for consideration. No action has been taken and it is certain that the proposal will be given considerable study before any action is taken. During the meantime, petitions are in the office of the town clerk. If twenty-five interested persons sign the petition then a survey would be made, it was explained. Even though the survey supported such a project, the town authorities could reject it.

An independent representative of the housing authority discussed the project with the commissioners at a special meeting last Friday, and it was his opinion that the town could participate in the program. He explained that no unit could cost more than \$8,000. On that basis, the project would cost between half million and \$800,000. The government would guarantee the bonds at 2 1/2 percent. The town would contract to have the houses built, rent them with the understanding that the project would liquidate itself in forty years.

Future action will be determined to a large extent by the request for houses. Interested parties may see one of the petitions in the treasurer's office.

Treasurer Dan Sharpe reported that the town had a balance of \$15,121.38 on hand, including \$3,483.76 for sewer construction work. He also reported that \$57,705.10 of the \$75,394.22 tax levy for 1949 had been collected.

Appearing before the board, railroad company officials agreed to open a street all the way from Washington Street to West Main Street on the west side of the railroad, provided the town would (Continued on page eight)

School Plan At Oak City Takes New Turn

ROUND-UP

Eight persons were rounded up and placed in the county jail temporarily last week-end by local, county and State officers.

Three were charged with public drunkenness, two with non-support, and one each with assault with a deadly weapon, drunken driving and disorderly conduct.

Three were white and the ages of the group ranged from 25 to 51 years.

John W. Leggett, Native Of County Died Thursday

Funeral Conducted Saturday In Christian Chapel
At Cross Roads

John William Leggett, a native of this county, died at his home just across the boundary line in Beaufort County last Thursday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock of a cerebral hemorrhage.

The son of the late Jeremiah and Willie Leggett, he was born in Cross Roads Township 56 years ago on April 15, 1893, and spent most of his life on the farm there. A few years ago he moved to Beaufort County where he operated a rural store.

A veteran of World War I, he served from May 28, 1918, until August 16, 1919, spending from August 7, 1918 until February 18, 1919, overseas. His health was impaired to some extent while serving in France during the war. (Continued on page eight)

Assistant County Agent Will Direct Sweet Potato Program

S. A. Tuten To Succeed Sumner In Martin County

Denounces Critical Position of Farm Leaders In
Talk At Winton

Effective March 15, Assistant Farm Agent Jesse Sumner will direct a sweet potato program in the counties of Martin, Pitt and Edgecombe, and S. A. Tuten will succeed Sumner in this county as assistant agent, it was announced following the regular meeting of the Martin County Commissioners Monday.

Appearing before the meeting, District Agent E. L. Norton of Raleigh discussed the appointment of Mr. Sumner as head of the special sweet potato program, pointing out that he was the most promising man for the job. The district agent then recommended Mr. Tuten, explaining that he had done an effective work in Beaufort County as assistant farm agent. Mr. Tuten married Miss Garnette Crocker, former assistant home agent in this county.

No details of the arrangements had been announced early Tuesday, but it is expected that Mr. Sumner will continue his residence in Williamston and direct the work in the three counties from his headquarters in this county.

The board called for the immunization of all dogs in the county against rabies and named Dr. W. F. Coppage to handle the task. No charge is to be made of the dog owner and the doctor will be paid out of dog tax collections at the rate of 75 cents per dog, plus any amount collected in excess of the 75 cents. If 2,000 dogs are vaccinated and 2,000 dogs are listed for taxation, then the vaccination fee will be at the rate of (Continued on page eight)

State Education Board Postpones Final Decision

State Authorities To Tackle
Problem At Meeting
Next Month

Plans calling for the construction of a new Negro High school in Oak City, took a new turn in Raleigh last week, and no final decision is expected before April 6.

To eliminate long bus routes and provide facilities for a fairly heavy population center, school authorities had proposed a new high school for Oak City. Supporters fearing such action would weaken their school in Parmele, appealed to the Governor and State school authorities. Hearings were held and serious charges were advanced. Following those hearings, a special commission, at the direction of the State Board of Education, conducted a survey of the field and reported its findings to the State Board at its meetings in Raleigh last week.

No official report was released other than the one stating that the matter had been postponed. It was learned, however, from one of the State Board of Education members that more information was needed and that possibly another field survey would be made. The survey will be centered on school population, and it is believed that the board will depend upon that finding in determining a site for the new high school.

The board member would not be quoted, but it is possible that the State Board will find the

Order 1,500-Acre Cut In County's Peanut Acreage

Drastically curtailed last year, the peanut allotment in Martin County will be reduced another 1,500 acres this year, according to unofficial but reliable information learned this week. The acreage this year will be cut by about 7.21 percent, or right at 1,500 acres.

The allotment last year was 20,779 acres, and the 1950 allotment is 19,283 acres, a figure that falls between five and six thousand acres below the all-time acreage peak recorded during the war years.

Individual allotments are being mailed to growers this week, and

the accumulated reduction, amounting to almost one-third compared with the normal plantings, is likely to nit some growers mighty hard.

Detailed facts on allotments by states could not be had, but it is fairly definite that the peanut acreage has moved southward and southwestward in recent years, leaving Georgia and Alabama with larger acreages than the allotments held in this State.

Farmers are looking around for crops to plant on the acres taken out of peanut production. Quite a few pastures are being seeded, and there is a fairly definite trend toward sweet potatoes.

Three Car Wrecks In Martin County In Past Few Days

One or Two Persons Slightly Hurt; Property Damage Estimated at \$700

Motorists got busy on Martin County highways last week-end and started straightening out curves and clearing slow drivers off the roads. No one was badly hurt but in three accidents reported by the highway patrol of office property damage amounted to approximately \$700.

Driving his father's 1941 Ford, James Lucas Roberson lost control of the machine and turned it over on the Ballard Bridge Road in Poplar Point Township. Roberson, 16, and his companions, Cecil Roberson, 16, William Clyde Roberson, 13, Bennie Williams, 19, and Joe Williams, 16, were not hurt. Investigating the accident, Patrolman John T. Rowe estimated the car damage at \$400. The Robersons moved to this county from Roper a short time ago.

"Borrowing" his father's 1939 Buick last Saturday night, James Rogers, 15, tried to straighten out a curve near Dardens about 1:00 o'clock Sunday morning. The boy, operating the car without a license, was slightly scratched, but his companion was not hurt, according to Patrolman E. P. Simmons who made the investigation and estimated damage to the car at \$150.

Sunday night about 11:00 o'clock, Augustus Griffin was driving about 15 miles per hour from Gold Point toward Robersonville.

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Car Demolished, Driver Escapes Without Scratch

His 1950 Buick demolished when it went out of control and turned over three times between Windsor and Aulander yesterday afternoon, Thomas Parham of Washington walked from the debris without a scratch. The car, battered almost beyond recognition, was brought to the Chas. H. Jenkins Company garage here. Viewing the wrecked vehicle, observers could not believe no one was hurt or killed in the wreck.

PAVING

Starting work yesterday, the Nello Teer Company is moving right along with a paving project on local streets, a report this morning stating that the job possibly will be completed in about five days.

A "sticker" course has been applied to most of 64 and 17 within the town and the first asphalt was laid on 17 this morning, the machines gradually moving from the colored high school toward the business section. Sticky feet are the style, and Tar Heels are spreading the stuff all over towns, in offices and

Program Listed For Concert This Week By Band

Williamston High School
Musicians Take Stage At
8:15 Friday Evening

The tentative program of the concert to be presented in the high school auditorium here on Friday evening of this week by the Williamston High School Green Wave Band was announced today by Prof. Jack Butler, director of the band.

While the beginners and junior groups of the band will play two or three numbers at the beginning of the program, the main concert will feature the senior band in some of the most exacting numbers it has attempted so far. Several new instruments will be used for the first time in concert here.

Practice sessions are being held every day this week in preparation for the concert with all members of the various groups being instructed to practice as often as they can at home. Some of the numbers being used in the concert are the same as those listed for the music contest at East Carolina Teachers College in Greenville on Saturday, March 18.

The program will likely open with a march—"Men of Ohio" by Fillmore, a number written in honor of a political group from Ohio during the early 1920's. The composer is one of America's most noted and prolific.

The second number is a contest number by Forrest Buchtel, "Bagdad." It is a light overture, the theme beginning with a smooth, flowing type of melody and then changing to a more rapid movement with different sections of the band handling the theme before it comes to a rousing finish.

"There's Something About A Soldier" (Gay-Yoder) is the third number on the tentative list. It is arranged in the form of a descriptive patrol portraying a day in the life of a soldier and opens with the First Call played very softly by one snare drum. The bugle sounding Reveille, Mess Call, Assembly, Inspection, Adjutant's Call, the Roll Off by the drums, Dress Parade, etc. all follow in an interesting sequence. Minuet from "Berenice" by Handel-Roberts is the next number, a moderately slow moving piece that is rated high among the numbers on the state music contest list this year.

"Trombones on Parade" by Taylor is a full sounding march in which the trombone and baritone sections are featured throughout.

"Pavanne" is a modernistic number by Gould-Yoder, one of the country's foremost modern composers and is taken from the American Symphonette No. 2. It features a steady rhythmic background in the basses, baritone saxophone. The main theme is carried by the muted trumpet with the entire band building on the theme to a climax, and then the trumpet again brings out the theme which gradually dies away to a pianissimo ending.

"Russian Choral and Overture" is based on Tchaikovsky's Opus 39, No. 24 and Russian Folk Tunes and was arranged by Merle J. Isaac. It is largely an instrumental interpretation of the vocal music featured in the churches of old Russia. Peasant dances are a (Continued on page eight)

SAVINGS

Martin County tobacco farmers will save between \$7,000 and \$8,000 on their hail insurance premiums this year as a result of a revision of rates recently announced by State Commissioner of Insurance Waldo C. Cheek. The insurance has been costing \$3.50 per \$100, and was revised down to \$3 per hundred. The saving for the State will approximate \$157,000, it was announced.

It is estimated that hail insurance premiums in this county have totalled about \$49,000 per year, that the cost will drop to around \$41,000 or