

National Guard Unit Receives Equipment

Value Materials More Than Half-Million Dollars

Big Guns and Tractors Will Be Shipped Shortly By Rail Freight

Organized only a short time ago, Battery C, 150th AAA Battalion, last week-end received much equipment with still more to come in by rail freight during the next few weeks. Uniforms are expected within a short time. Unofficial reports place the value of the unit's equipment in excess of half-million dollars.

Most of the equipment is being stored in the old pumping station of the town's municipal water system on Sycamore Street while the rolling equipment is being stored temporarily in the county school garage near the State Highway prison camp. Most of the lot at the water plant is to be fenced in shortly and the rolling equipment will be kept there. Two large anti-aircraft guns are to be mounted there also.

Included in the equipment unloaded here last Saturday are an undisclosed number of individual carbine rifles and a large supply of small live ammunition which is stored in a strong room especially constructed within the plant. There are several machine guns, sub-machine machine guns, rocket guns or bazookas, three field kitchens, gas masks, special containers, and an elaborate assortment of tools, including spades.

Extensive radar equipment is also included in the shipment. Three large mobile generators furnish the power for the system. The unit is equipped with a telephone switchboard, twenty-four field telephones, and miles of electric and telephone cable. There is an independent radio system for the unit.

Included in the rolling equipment already here are three two and one-half ton trucks, a jeep, three trailers and the three mounted generators. The two 90-mm. anti-aircraft guns and two large tractors are to be shipped in by rail.

The guard unit is rapidly taking definite shape with promotions to private first class for all enlisted men, and corporal and sergeant ratings expected within the near future for several of the men.

For the present, the men will acquaint themselves with the equipment, with limited practice with dummy ammunition on the

Large Audience Hears Local Band

A large and attentive audience heard the third annual concert of the Williamston High School beginners' and senior bands at the high school auditorium here last Friday night and about 300 band members, their parents and special guests attended a birthday gathering at the school cafeteria following the concert.

Playing some of the most difficult music it has yet attempted, the band acquitted itself well despite a number of handicaps, including illness which threw some of its sections a bit out of balance.

The beginners played three hymn numbers and proved the band movement in the school is getting ample recruits. The junior band had to call off its part in the program when it developed that half of their number was out with influenza or other illness.

Expressing the pleasure of both his young musicians and himself at the fine reception given the concert, Professor Jack Butler also noted the help given in the drum section by Jimmy Mitchell, local drummer.

Rehearsals this week are being devoted to getting ready for the district music contest at Greenville next Saturday in which the band is entered.

ENTRY TIME

Adult farmers planning to enter hogs in the annual Martin County Fat Stock Show will have until Friday of this week to list their entries. Assistant Farm Agent D. W. Brady announced yesterday. The deadline for the entries was first set for March 15, but a special request was made to delay it until Friday. Quite a few animals have been checked for showing during the annual show to be held in May, one report stated.

Testimony Backs Lindsay Warren's Subsidy Reports

Ship Subsidy Scandal Continues To Bubble In Committee Room

The ship subsidy scandal continues to bubble. Testimony before the House sub-committee headed by Congressman Porter Hardy, Jr., (Dem., Va.) recently supported a number of charges regarding the extraordinary schemes by which shipping interests have been gypping the government, right under the nose of the Maritime Commission.

The commission administers the Merchant Marine Act, passed by Congress nearly 14 years ago for the purpose of building up the nation's merchant shipping, as an asset in case of war, and an aid to international trade in times of peace.

Comptroller General Lindsay C. Warren and Raymond S. McKee, a one-man minority on the commission, charge that the ship owners have not been satisfied with a reasonable interpretation of the benefits the law provides.

As an example, the Hardy Committee hearings turned this week to a provision of the law which enables the government to get back some of the subsidy, out of the profits of the line if the profits in any year exceed 10 per cent of what the Merchant Marine Act describes as "capital necessarily employed."

It is up to the commission to determine what is meant by "capital necessarily employed," and the Comptroller General indicated that this "interpretation" has enriched the ship owners at the expense of Uncle Sam.

The whole thing is so complicated that only a "Philadelphia lawyer" can understand it, but Warren's auditors came to a startling conclusion, which was supported at the hearing.

The auditors found that in some cases, the very fact that shipping lines had made big profits during the war decreased the amount that Uncle Sam could get back on the subsidies the lines had been paid.

Much of the Warren report was a scathing criticism of the way members of the Maritime Commission staff determined the amounts of the subsidies the shipping lines are paid, both on the operation of ships and on the building of new ships and the refitting of war-used ships for peace-time commerce.

Spokesmen for the commission continued to agree that Warren was right as various points in the report were covered. Some of the

Wind Blows Top From Little Savoy Cafe Here

The top front of the Little Savoy, Negro cafe on Washington Street here, was blown off by a gust of wind late last night. No estimate of the damage could be had immediately.

It was reported that the goodly number of patrons dancing there at the time, beat a quick retreat out the back door, one fellow declaring he was almost trampled in the rush to clear the one-story building.

Seventeen Cases On Civil Docket In Superior Court

\$1,000 Damage Suit Sent Back For New Trial By Supreme Court

Seventeen cases have been placed on the civil calendar for trial during the two-week term of the Martin County Superior Court. Opening the first sessions next Monday, the court will devote the first of the two-week regular term to the trial of criminal cases, and start work the following Monday, March 27, on the civil calendar which also lists seven divorce actions and alimony claims.

After clearing the divorce sheet on the 27th, Judge Q. K. Nimocks, presiding, is expected to call four civil actions that day.

In the case of Minnie P. Roberson and J. D. Roberson, Sr., against Oring Partee Roberson, the plaintiffs are asking that the court declare that the defendant has no interest in certain lands, or that the defendant's interest be determined and guardian authorized to convey to the plaintiff the land in question upon payment by the plaintiffs of the fixed amount.

The ten-year-old boundary line case of W. W. Griffin against W. F. Barber and Farnville-Woodward Lumber Company and involving about \$50 damages is back on the calendar, the issue centering around a boundary line dispute.

The fast aging boundary line case of H. H. Cowen against C. E. Jenkins, is back on the docket with several hundred pages of evidence taken at a referee hearing.

Joseph E. Smallwood in his case against Geo. M. Stevenson, is claiming \$3,000 for his share of crops and \$185.30 alleged due him under a landlord-tenant contract.

The case of Grover Peel, administrator of Chloe Peel, against the A. C. L. Railroad Company is back on the calendar. It was tried before Judge Leo Carr last September and the plaintiff was given a judgment in the sum of \$6,000. The defense asked that the judgment be set aside as being contrary to the weight of the evidence and as being excessive. The defense also claimed trial errors. It was agreed that the case be heard again. The case originated as a result of the death of Chloe Peel, small child, who was fatally hurt when struck by the defendant's train near Dardens on September 27, 1948. The plaintiff asked \$10,000.

Walter Bailey in his case against Mrs. Mary E. Bailey and others, is asking the court to set aside a deed allegedly transferred by undue influence.

The case of Dallas Ray Green, by his next friend, Clarence W. Griffin, against Roy Bowers was sent back to the county for trial by the State Supreme Court. The high tribunal, it was reported, found conflicting instructions given the jury by the presiding jurist, Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn. The plaintiff was injured when struck by the defendant's truck in Parmele on September 15, 1948. The case was tried during the April, 1949, term and the plaintiff was given a judgment in the sum of

Drive Continues On Illicit Liquor

The illicit liquor business in Martin County continues to flourish, a report for the first two months of 1950 showing that there has been an increase in activities on that front.

Reporting his activities for February, ABC Officer J. H. Roebuck said that thirteen illicit liquor plants were wrecked in the county during that period. The officers poured out 3,050 gallons of cheap beer or mash, confiscated eleven gallons of white liquor, and tore down two partial distilleries.

Plants were wrecked in Hamilton, Robersonville, Jamesville, Bear Grass, Cross Roads and Williams Townships.

In January, the officers wrecked thirteen stills and poured out 3,000 gallons of beer-mash.

Plans Going Forward For New County Health Center

Plans are going forward for the construction of a new health center for the Martin County Health Department. A report from a special committee from the office of the county board of commissioners this week, stated that a location for the new building had been narrowed down to three sites, that construction plans would be advanced just as soon as comparative costs could be determined and other details are cleared.

Coming to the county last Thursday, Dr. J. A. Ferrell of the North Carolina Medical Care Commission, and Dr. C. C. Applewhite of the North Carolina State

Board of Health, inspected possible site for the center and said that any one of three would be all right. One of the sites is located on Ray and Harrell Street just back of the Biggs home in New Town. Another site is located near Woodlawn Cemetery on North Houghton Street, and still another is located on East Main Street just across from the G. P. Halls.

The Medical Care Commission and State Health Board representatives explained that the State and federal government would furnish most of the money for the project which will cost approximately \$50,000.

ROUND-UP

Six persons were rounded up and temporarily detained in the county jail over the week-end, three for drunken driving, two for public drunkenness, and one for an assault.

One of the six was a middle-aged white man, the ages of the group ranging from 19 to 58 years. There were no highway accidents and officers stated everything was quiet, for the most part, in the county during the period.

Ben Wynne Dies In Georgetown

Funeral services for Ben F. Wynne, 87, who died at his home in Georgetown, South Carolina, Sunday morning after several years of declining health, were held at 9:00 o'clock Monday morning from the Mayer funeral home in Georgetown. A native of this county, Mr. Wynne moved to Georgetown in 1920, two years after the death of his first wife, the former Miss Betty Elizabeth Bullock. Surviving this union are three sons, Mack Wynne of RFD 3, Williamston, Frank and Joe Wynne of Georgetown. He later married Miss Effie Mobley of Georgetown, who survives with a daughter, Mrs. Perry Amaker, twelve grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Interment was in the family cemetery in Cross Roads Township at 4 o'clock Monday afternoon. Rev. E. R. Stewart, Baptist minister of Hamilton, conducted the final rites.

Grandparents Die Over the Week-end Minor Accident In The County

Patrolman E. P. Simmons of Jamesville lost his grandmother, and Mrs. Simmons lost her grandfather during the week-end.

Mrs. Simmons' grandfather, Benjamin F. Wynne, died in Georgetown, S. C., Sunday morning and was buried in Cross Roads Township, this county, Monday afternoon.

Mr. Simmons' grandmother, Mrs. H. W. Nee, a native of Beaufort, N. C., died Sunday morning at her home in Lenoir, N. C., and is being buried in Beaufort this afternoon.

Telephone Company Makes Five-Year Progress Report

In a report released this week, the Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company reviews a remarkable progress record for the past five years and especially for 1949.

The Williamston exchange, according to the report, has more than doubled in size since 1945, having 1,426 telephones at the present time. The report points out that 737 telephones were installed since the war. Last year alone, 138 telephones were added to the Williamston exchange. Included in the list of patrons are 239 rural subscribers, the local exchange having about the largest per capita patronage in the rural

Club Boy Writes About Free Trip To Northern City

Dallas H. Cox One of Five Boys To Win Sweet Potato Contest

The latter part of January, Dallas H. Cox, Oak City 4-H Club boy, and four other Martin County youths left for several northern cities as guests of the Martin County Yam Growers Association, independent firms and organizations. The lads, accompanied by M. M. Levin, J. W. Sumner and Henry Covington, had won the trips in a sweet potato production contest. The Williamston Boosters, one of the organizations offering cash prizes, gave \$100 to help finance Cox's trip. Expressing his appreciation, Cox wrote to Secretary Al Sweet of the Boosters, as follows:

The date January 30, 1950, will always be remembered by me as a day of great importance throughout my life. It was this date I started a trip from Williamston to New York and back. It was this date that I realized I had won a trip through my efforts in farming.

Throughout my life I have had a desire to go to these places of interest and this was my chance. To help explain why this trip, given me, was so great, I will try to give a brief review of some of the things we saw and did during that week.

When we left Williamston the other four boys and I had no idea of what Mr. Levin, Mr. Sumner or Mr. Covington had in store for us or what the large cities would be like.

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Red Cross Drive Is About One-Half Complete To Date

Total of \$832.31 Raised And Reported to Chairman G. G. Woolard

The annual Red Cross Fund Drive in the Martin County Chapter is just about half completed, Chairman Garland G. Woolard announced late yesterday. Up until that time the canvassers had reported and turned over to the chairman a total of \$832.31. Delayed at the opening of the drive, March 1, several townships are just beginning their solicitations, with the announced intention of completing the canvass by the latter part of this or early next week.

Chairman A. B. Ayers, Jr., stated that the canvass had just about been completed in Bear Grass, that \$129.00 of the district's \$250 quota had been raised.

Handling the solicitations among the colored citizens in Poplar Point, Willis Williams raised and submitted to the chapter chairman \$5.47.

Fifteen of the approximately forty canvassers in Williamston have raised and reported right at \$700, and the chairman is hopeful the 25 remaining canvassers will carry this district over the top.

No canvass report has been received from three of the townships. However, Mrs. Camille F. Rawls, chairman for Jamesville, said that the following had been named to make the canvass there, Mrs. Gaines, Mrs. Carrie Dell Fagan, Mrs. Wendell Modlin, Mrs. Leo Gardner, Mrs. George Cooper, Mrs. Annie Mae Lilley and Maurice Brown.

In Griffins, the chairman, Mrs. J. Eason Lilley, announced the following canvassers for her district: Mrs. Carlyle Stallings, Mrs. Coy Griffin, Mrs. Robert Griffin, Mrs. James Harrington, Mrs. Kenneth Harrington, Mrs. Ben Roberson and Mrs. Marvin Leggett. In Williams, Mrs. Irving Roberson, the chairman, said that Mrs. Ben Griffin and Mrs. Henry Williams were assisting in making the canvass in that district.

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Mrs. Modlin Dies Near Jamesville

Mrs. Mollie Modlin, well-known citizen of the Jamesville section, died at the home of a daughter, Mrs. Joseph Mizelle, near Jamesville, last Saturday morning at 9:45 o'clock. She had been in feeble health for some time, but her condition was not considered serious until about four days before her death.

The daughter of the late Humphrey Griffin and wife, she was born in the Poplar Chapel Community 76 years ago and lived in that section all her life. In early womanhood she was married to Nathan J. Modlin who died some years ago. Up until the opening of World War II, she lived at the old home, but when one of her sons entered the service she went to make her home with a daughter.

She was one of the oldest members of the Poplar Chapel Church, and funeral services were conducted there Monday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock the Rev. Frank Butler of Washington, assisted by Rev. D. W. Davis of Plymouth, and Daniel Hardison of Jamesville. Interment was in the Modlin Cemetery near the old home.

Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. W. C. Sexton of Plymouth and Mrs. Joe Mizelle of Jamesville; three sons, Archie of Plymouth, Clyde and Edward W. Modlin of Jamesville; twelve grandchildren and three great-grandchildren and a sister, Mrs. Sue Lilley, of Raleigh.

Former Resident Able To Leave The Hospital

Quite ill for several days, Mr. Millard Lilley, former Williamston young man after receiving treatment in Duke Hospital, was able to leave the institution last Saturday for a visit with Patrolman and Mrs. Whit E. Saunders in Apex.

Local Woman Loses Life In Car Wreck

EXAMINATIONS

Those persons who filed for census enumerator positions in Martin County and who could not report for the examination given in the Williamston Grammar School last week will have an opportunity to take the test at the Employment Security Office in the Tar Heel Building in Williamston at 9:00 o'clock Thursday morning of this week, it was announced today.

Successful applicants will be notified soon after the 16th, and they are to report for a four-day training period, beginning March 27.

Jos. D. Leggett Died Suddenly at Home Monday

Funeral Being Conducted At Home on Smithwick Street This Afternoon

Joseph Daniel Leggett, well known local man and farmer, died suddenly in his sleep at his home on North Smithwick Street yesterday morning about 3:30 o'clock, the apparent victim of a heart attack. Receiving no answer when she called him shortly before 7:00 o'clock, his sister, Miss Martha Leggett, went to his room and found him dead. The bed clothing was not ruffled and he apparently died without a struggle. A medical examination showed that he had been dead only a few hours when he was found.

Mr. Leggett had suffered with a heart condition most of the time following an attack of pneumonia suffered when he was a child. In November, 1947, he fell and broke his hip and received treatment in a Raleigh hospital for months. Since that time he has used crutches, but continued fairly active, managing his farming interests near here and handling his other business activities.

Sunday afternoon he rode around town, ate a hearty supper and was feeling as well as usual when he retired early Sunday night. When his sister started to her room about 11:30 o'clock he told her good night and said he was going along in his nightgown.

The son of the late James D. and Martha Holiday Leggett, he was born in Williamston 54 years ago on July 9, 1895, and lived here all his life. Strictly individualistic, he enjoyed life at home, limiting his activities for the most part, to his home and farm which he headed when a young man following the death of his father.

Surviving are two brothers, J. Earl Leggett of Tucson, Arizona, and J. Claude Leggett of Williamston, and two sisters, Mrs. T. Marvin Britton and Miss Martha Leggett, also of Williamston.

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Bookmobile Tours County This Week

Mothers, and Fathers, do you remember how you loved to hear the magic tales of knights and ladies, dragons and princesses? Your children can too hear the thrilling stories of Grimm, Hans Christian Anderson, Oscar Wilde and many others at the story hour program brought to them every Saturday morning at 9:30 over Washington Radio Station WRRF by the Bookmobile Story Lady on a program entitled Once Upon A Time.

The Bookmobile itself is in Martin County this week bringing loads of good books to the people in all sections of the County. You can find religious reading for the Lenten Season, the latest books on gardening and home decoration, popular fiction and non-fiction titles and volumes on all subjects to suit even the most particular reader.—Reported.

Mrs. W. C. Mercer Is Fatally Injured Near Rich Square

Funeral Services Will Be Held in Church Here Wednesday Morning

Mrs. Grace Beasley Mercer, wife of Dr. William C. Mercer of Williamston, was fatally injured and her son, Billy Mercer, and her mother, Mrs. T. Edward Beasley of Ahoskie, suffered shock when their car, a 1947 Buick sedan, turned over on its side during a rain about three miles out of Rich Square yesterday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Mrs. Mercer, suffering head injuries, was dead upon arrival at the Roanoke-Chowan Hospital in Ahoskie where Mrs. Beasley and her grandson were treated for shock. The young man was able to return to his home here last night, and Mrs. Beasley, after an overnight stay in the hospital, joined the family here this morning.

Traveling on Highway 305 toward Rich Square from the direction of Aulander, the car, running hardly forty miles an hour, struck a slick spot in an "S" curve and turned all the way around, coming to a stop on its left side against an embankment. Mrs. Mercer is believed to have caught the left door handle to brace herself and apparently the door came open. She was caught in the door as the car came to rest against the embankment. Mrs. Beasley fell to the foot of the car and the driver held to the steering wheel and both rode out the wreck without injury.

Investigating the accident, Highway Patrolmen W. G. O'Neal and Van B. Pierce said it was a freak one, that little damage was done to the car and that the accident was one of several reported in that particular place in recent months under similar conditions.

Mrs. Mercer and son had gone to Ahoskie for her mother and were taking her to visit a son, Dr. E. B. Waley, in Fountain.

The daughter of Mrs. T. Edward Beasley and the late Mr. Beasley, Mrs. Mercer was born in Colerain 55 years ago on October 4, 1894. After spending her early life there, she entered Chowan College and following her graduation she taught school before marrying Dr. Mercer and locating in Ahoskie where they lived 12 years.

Coming to Williamston sixteen years ago when Dr. Mercer opened an office for the practice of dentistry, Mrs. Mercer soon endeared herself to the people of her adopted community. She was an active member of the Memorial Baptist Church and devoted much time to study and work in missionary circles and other religious activities. A devoted mother and a friend to all, she cherished the finer ideals in life, and willingly lent a helping hand to all worthy causes.

Surviving besides her mother, husband and son, are a daughter, Miss Nancy Mercer, a teacher in

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Bad Luck Plagues Rocky Mount Man

Jesse Matt Rooks, Rocky Mount man who came down to fish in Gardner's Cree last Saturday, encountered bad luck, but managed to escape with his life.

Said to have imbibed too freely of the spirits, Rooks was rowing his 81-year-old father in a boat. When the boat turned over, both men were nearly drowned, one report stating that the aged man was too weak to get back into the boat and that the son was too drunk to save himself. Fellow-townsman pulled the two out of the creek, and Rooks got into his car with the old man and started home. Before he got to Williams ton he was stopped by Patrolman E. P. Simmons who booked him on a drunken driving charge.