

W. Blount Rodman, local attorney and solicitor of the county recorder's court, was this week advised that he had been accepted as a volunteer officer candidate for the Army, and he will report for preliminary training with the July quota of selectees from this county. He was originally scheduled to be inducted into the service with the June quota.

Henry Freeman, 14-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Freeman, is in a Rocky Mount hospital, where he was operated on for hernia last Monday. He was taken to Rocky Mount Sunday and his father said this week that it would be necessary for him to remain there about three weeks.

The decline in political interest this year was strikingly shown by attendance at the Democratic county convention here last Saturday. Not even all of the candidates for office were present for the proceedings.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Clark were advised this week that their son, Captain Lawrence Bonner Clark, of the U. S. Marine Corps, recently was promoted to major. Major Clark, a graduate of the Naval Academy at Annapolis, is in the Marine Corps air service and has been stationed at Quantico, Va., for some time.

Womble's Drug Store is now selling War Saving Stamps in the 25-cent denomination. He added the new line this week, and it is one item about which the ceiling price doesn't worry him.

A Navy recruiting officer was at the post office here for the first three days this week. He interviewed about 50 men who appeared interested in signing up, and several of them filed applications while he was here. Exact figures were not given out.

Reuben L. Mayo returned home this week after attending college in Mississippi during the term just ended. He has applied for enlistment in the V-5 class of Naval Aviation, and if accepted does not plan to return to school this year.

The Plymouth Steam Laundry, after "ironing out" some unexpected difficulties last week, went into operations in full blast this week. J. B. Willoughby, owner, expresses his appreciation for the fine patronage which is being extended him and is making every effort to render the finest type of laundry service.

Gas rationing has put a real crimp in traveling, according to W. A. Davidson, who made a traffic count on the highway in front of his home last Sunday. He said 38 cars passed his house during a 30-minute period, while last year about the same time he counted 178 in the same period of time. This represents a decrease of 140. Of the 38 cars he counted Sunday, 14 were driven by colored people, and 7 of the 38 cars were from out of state.

Registration for the June primary ended last Saturday, with 317 new names put on the books in Plymouth and 40 in Lees Mills. No figures could be obtained from the other three precincts, but it is understood that about 15 or 20 registered in Skippersville. Saturday of this week is challenge day.

H. W. Pritchett, of Creswell, unopposed Democratic candidate for county commissioner from his section, was a business visitor in Plymouth Tuesday.

**Three Get Permits For Tires, Tubes**

The Washington County Rationing Board held its regular weekly meeting last Thursday night to consider applications for tires and re-treads, but at that time there was so much hullabaloo over the gasoline registration just concluded that the board almost forgot it had other business to handle, too.

Applications were approved, however, and certificates issued to the following for purchase of tires and tubes:

P. B. Bateman, salesman for products essential to prosecution of the war; 2 retreaded tires for passenger car; North Carolina Pulp Company, essential manufacturing industry, 5 retreads for passenger cars; J. R. Carr, 2 new tires and tubes for truck used in work as beekeeper.

**About Half of County Farmers Have Received 1941 Conservation Payments**

According to the office of County Agent W. V. Hays 661 soil conservation checks covering 457 applications have been mailed to farmers in this county on their 1941 crops. The total amount represented in the checks is \$23,414.12. Mr. Hays said that this indicated about 50 per cent of the producers in Washington County have now received their 1941 payments for soil conservation and that the others would get them within a short time. The county agent urges all those who have received checks to be sure they have received the right checks before attempt-

**RETIRING AND INCOMING PARTY LEADERS**



E. G. Arps (left) was elected chairman of the Washington County Democratic Executive Committee at the convention held here Saturday, succeeding W. Ronald Gaylord (right), who had served two terms and who declined to accept the office again after being elected Saturday.



**1,444 Gasoline Cards Issued to Car Drivers In County Last Week**

**SUPERINTENDENT**



C. J. Jordan, formerly of Raleigh, who is the plant Superintendent of the new Plymouth Steam Laundry, which opened for business here last week.

**E. G. Arps To Head Party Organization For Next Two Years**

Succeeds W. Ronald Gaylord, Who Declined Third Term

Washington County Democrats held one of the quietest county conventions in years at the courthouse here last Saturday morning. Not even a resolution endorsing the state or national Democratic administrations was presented, and the entire session lasted barely half an hour.

Called to order by W. Ronald Gaylord, chairman of the executive committee, information was given concerning the state convention, which will be held in Raleigh Friday of this week, and a motion was made and carried that all Democrats present at the county convention be elected delegates and alternates to the state meeting.

Immediately afterwards, the chairman of the various precinct committees retired and reelected W. Ronald Gaylord chairman of the county executive committee for the ensuing two years. However, Mr. Gaylord, stating that since he had served in this capacity for two terms and that he was likely to be inducted into the military service in the near future, expressed his regret at being unable to serve further. Earnest G. Arps, chairman of the board of county commissioners, was then elected to head the party organization during the coming two years.

**Young Boy Burned In Accident Sunday**

Bobby Davenport, 8-year-old son of Mrs. Martha Whedbee Davenport, was reported to be improving today following an accident Sunday night in which he was badly burned about the face and eyes when some black gunpowder he was experimenting with exploded. Dr. C. McGowan, who attended the youngster, said that he suffered no permanent injuries, although the burns were very painful. In some manner the youth secured a small quantity of black powder, and when he struck a match to it, the powder flared up into his face. He was treated by Dr. McGowan at the time and taken to a Washington hospital the next day.

**Issue More A Cards Than Any Other; 30 In Unlimited Class**

Large Number of Trucks Registered and Secured "X" Cards

The first round of the gasoline rationing program has just about been completed, according to Bill Roebuck, clerk to the rationing board, and just what a mess is facing that board the average person will never know. That group held meetings last Thursday and Friday that lasted until midnight and still has a huge task ahead of it.

The report on the number of persons registering for cards last Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday is admittedly not accurate to the last figure on account of late registrations and an exchange of cards. The rationing board itself and those who assisted by conducting the registration last week have been unjustly criticized in some cases for flaws in the system over which they had no control. As a whole, it is believed that administration and issuance of the rationing cards was more nearly handled in the proper manner in this county than in any of those surrounding areas.

However, at its best, it is still a mess. The rationing board here has already called in a number of "X" cards, permitting unlimited purchases of gasoline, and plans to scan applications for that class, as well as (See GASOLINE Page 4)

**Legion To Elect Officers At Meet Tomorrow Night**

An important meeting of the James E. Jethro Post of the American Legion will be held at the Legion Hall Friday night of this week at 8 o'clock. Officers for the coming year are to be elected, and all ex-service men in the county, as well as members of the post, are urged to attend.

The Legion has recently changed its fiscal year to run from July 1 to July 1, instead of October to October, as in the past. Those elected at the meeting tonight will assume their offices in July.

**Principal Asks Parents of Beginners To Meet Friday**

Mr. Trotman requests all parents who expect to enter children in the beginners grade of school next year and who did not attend the pre-school clinic, to meet Miss Perry and him at the Hampton School Friday afternoon, May 22, at 4 o'clock. The purpose of this meeting is to enroll the child and to discuss matters pertaining to the beginning of school.

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**Two Members of Draft Board Resign; Third Man Is Temporarily in Charge**

**E. S. Blount, Clyde Smithson Out After Serving Since Start**

Action by Both Men Was Voluntary; Reasons Outlined

It was learned here late yesterday that Clyde Smithson, of Creswell, had tendered his resignation as member of the Washington County Selective Service Board, effective immediately. The reason assigned was pressure of private business. No details were obtainable here this morning, but the state board has designated J. Roy Manning, third member of the local board, to carry on the work as temporary chairman until two new members of the board are appointed.

Edward S. (Ted) Blount wired his resignation as chairman and member of the Washington County Selective Service Board to Brigadier General J. Van B. Betts, state director of selective service in Raleigh, last Tuesday, following receipt of a memorandum which advised that no candidate for political office should continue to serve in any capacity with the state selective service system. Mr. Blount is a candidate for the Democratic nomination as sheriff of Washington County in the primary May 30.

Mr. Blount has served as a member and chairman of the local board ever since it was instituted over a year and a half ago, and under his direction the work of the local selective service office has been commended by supervising inspectors on several occasions.

The memorandum which advised selective service officials throughout the state against engaging in any kind of political activity contained no implied criticism of those who have become candidates or engaged in other political work. It was a mimeographed form letter and simply stated that it was desired that the administration of selective service be entirely "free of political activities." The full text of the letter, signed by General Metts and addressed to all personnel of the North Carolina Selective Service System, follows:

"In view of the coming election, this office has received a number of inquiries with regard to political activities of persons affiliated with the North Carolina Selective Service System. For obvious reasons, I believe that each of you will agree that the administration of selective service must be free of all political activities. In my opinion, everyone is entitled to vote for and quietly support any candidate of his choice. However, I feel that each of you will agree with me that anyone who enters a political campaign for election to a public office, or who takes an active part in conducting the campaign of a political candidate, is more or less, creating a condition which can and may cause criticism of selective service personnel in their endeavor to properly perform their duties of administering the selective service and training act. Though we regret to be called upon to accept the resignation of experienced members of the selective service system, as we feel that such experience is invaluable under present conditions, we believe that it is in the best interest of selective service to do so when one enters a political campaign for office.

**Merchants Doing Best They Can, But Details of Plan Rather Indefinite**

Plymouth merchants have not been worried this week about gasoline rationing, or lack of business, or too much business, or anything else, because most of them have been up to their ears trying to make sense out of the price ceiling order which became effective Monday, but the details of which nobody seems to be sure about.

A ray of hope is seen in an announcement yesterday from the office of Price Administrator Lech Henderson, who said that a bulletin, "What Every Retailer Should Know About the General Maximum Price Regulation," setting forth the A, B, C of price regulations that went into effect May 18 for virtually all goods sold at retail, would be distributed throughout the nation this week.

**Tentative List for June 3 Draft Quota Is Prepared Here**

Several Have Already Enlisted in Navy; Other Changes Possible

The Washington County Selective Service Board has prepared a list of 33 white men tentatively selected to leave here June 3rd for induction into the United States Army. It is explained that there are some on the list who have until Saturday of this week to appeal from the classification in which they have been placed, and it is also possible that some whose names appear on the list will enlist in the Navy or some other branch of the service before they receive orders to report for induction. The formal orders for induction have not yet been issued, but will be possibly by the latter part of the week. The men on the list have already received their screening examination by the medical examiner for the local board. It is understood that at least two of those named have enlisted in the Naval Reserve, and it is possible that others may do so this week.

Of the 33 men on the tentative list, 24 are from the first and second registrations, while 9 are come from those (See DRAFT LIST Page 4)

**ORIGINAL MEMBERS LOCAL DRAFT BOARD**



The resignation of Edward S. (Ted) Blount and Clyde Smithson (top, left to right) from the local selective service board this week will necessitate practically a complete reorganization of this body in the near future. For the present, J. Roy Manning is in sole charge as temporary chairman. Mr. Blount, who has served as chairman ever since the board was set up over a year and a half ago, resigned because he is a candidate for sheriff in the coming Democratic primary, and Mr. Smithson resigned due to the pressure of private business. It is expected that the state board will rush the appointment of two new members in order that classification and induction of selectees may be continued at this time when the Army is being rapidly expanded and heavy calls are being made on local boards throughout the entire nation.



**Name J. R. Manning To Keep Work Going Until Help Secured**

State Official Also Praises Manner in Which Board Here Operated

Major Upton, an official of the State Selective Service Board, yesterday designated J. Roy Manning to serve as temporary chairman of the local board until members are named to succeed Edward S. Blount, the chairman, and Clyde Smithson, both of whom resigned this week. Mr. Manning has accepted the temporary appointment and will serve until the new members are appointed and the board reorganized.

Major Upton also ordered postponement of induction of Sidney A. Ward, clerk to the local board, who was in line to leave June 3 with other selectees for the army. The state official said that Mr. Ward's induction would be postponed until the new board had time to secure a substitute for the clerk's position.

The work of the Washington County Board was highly complimented by Major Upton in his telephone conversation with Mr. Manning yesterday, and he expressed his regret at the resignations of both Mr. Blount and Mr. Smithson. In this connection Mr. Manning said that he had enjoyed working with the two men who have resigned, and that there had never been the slightest bit of disagreement among the members over any questions which had arisen. Every vote taken by the board has been unanimous, and Mr. Manning said he believed their places would be hard to fill, as they were both very competent and fair.

It is not known how long will be required to have successors named for Messrs. Blount and Smithson, but it is thought immediate action will be taken, as the work of classifying and considering appeals for deferment will necessarily be brought to a standstill until a full board can be set up and organized. Preparations are going ahead for induction of the June 3rd quota, the men for which have already been classified and examined.

**Price Ceilings Order Has Merchants Here In Dither This Week**

**More Light on Dark Subject Is Needed; Compliance Varies**

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**Thomas G. Vail Appointed Warrant Officer in Army**

Technical Sergeant Thomas O. Vail, son of Mrs. S. J. Vail of Plymouth, Route 1, who is stationed at Grenier Field in Manchester, N. H., has been appointed a warrant officer junior grade.

**Norman & Rodman Occupy New Offices**

The law offices of Norman and Rodman were moved the latter part of last week from the Harney Building to their own quarters in the new building next to the old Plymouth Mercantile Company store, now occupied by the Western Auto Associate Store. The new offices are very convenient, and members of the firm have been looking forward to getting into them since work was started on the building last winter. The building was erected by Robert W. Tetterton, local contractor. It is a one-story brick structure, with a basement for the heating plant. It contains a large reception room and two private offices connected by a hall running the length of the building.

**Six Arrests Made Of Speeders Here**

Signs have been posted at the several entrances to Plymouth outlining the speed limits, and last week-end local officers and Corporal Tom Brown, of the State Highway Patrol, made six arrests for speeding, one for drunken driving and another for aiding and abetting in drunken driving.

The officers state that this is but a beginning, and that highway laws will be strictly enforced in the future, especially those dealing with speeding. It is also cited that aiding and abetting in drunken driving, for which one arrest was made last week-end, carries about the same penalty as drunken driving, including revocation of driver's license.

**Roper Young Man Now Naval Officer**

Maurice Maxwell Peacock, 27, of Roper, has graduated from Abbott Hall, the Naval Reserve Midshipman's School at Northwestern University in Chicago, and has been commissioned an ensign.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Peacock, of Roper. He attended the North Carolina State College and Louisiana Junior College. He was editor of the yearbook at Louisiana and a member of the N. C. State College Teachers' Club. After graduation he was employed by the Department of Agriculture at Oxford.

**Legion Auxiliary Is To Sponsor Poppy Sale Here Saturday**

Proceeds Will Be Used for Welfare Work Among All Veterans

"Wearing a poppy is a pledge that we will not break with those who have died defending America," said Mrs. J. B. Willoughby, president of the James E. Jethro Unit of the American Legion Auxiliary, as the Unit prepared for the annual observance of Poppy Day Saturday.

"The poppy comes to us from the fields of France where Americans first gave their lives in battle against the dictator powers," continued Mrs. Willoughby. "We wear this little red flower in honor of the men who fell at Belleau Woods, Chateau Thierry, St. Mihiel, the Meuse-Argonne and other battles of the first World War. We wear it also in honor of the brave boys of Pearl Harbor, Wake, the Philippines, the East Indies and all those who have sacrificed life elsewhere in this renewal of the conflict."

"The poppy, as you know, was inspired by the poem, 'In Flanders' Fields' with its immortal lines: 'In Flanders' fields the poppies blow, Between the crosses, row on row.' Paper poppies, made by disabled veterans of the first World War, will be distributed throughout the city on Saturday by the women of the Auxiliary. In exchange for them the Auxiliary will receive contributions for its welfare work among the disabled, their families and the families of the dead of both wars.

**Few Supplementary Cards for Gasoline Issued; Number Applications Pending**

The local rationing board has already issued a few supplementary cards in connection with the gas rationing program, and it is scheduled to consider a number of requests for the extra cards at its meeting tonight. The holders of the "A" and "B" ration cards are permitted to apply for supplementary rations of gasoline in cases of emergency or when the card issued can be proven to be insufficient to meet the holder's legitimate needs. It is explained that the motorist who uses more gasoline than his card calls for in connection with his regular business, and if

other methods of transportation are inadequate or unavailable, is entitled to a supplementary card. In the case of a salesman, for instance, he must file a special application, showing his mileage estimate certified to by his employer and signed and sworn to before a notary public by the applicant. It was unofficially announced by the Price Administrator's Office in Washington this week that the holder of a "B" card who effects a saving of gasoline by "doubling up" with his neighbor or in any like manner is entitled to use the gas saved in any manner he sees fit.