

The car of W. T. Freeman was stolen Saturday night from the streets here but located undamaged several hours later. He left the car parked on Washington Street beside the Norman Furniture store, and issued it about 7:45. After searching for several hours, the car was found parked on the same street in front of the draft board office about midnight.

The squirrel hunting season comes to a close Friday, and many sportsmen have been taking their farewell hunts this week. The ban on pleasure driving is having its effect, but some hunters are taking off on foot from their homes, and they are getting plenty of exercise if not game.

It's Sergeant William R. Gaylord now, if you please. Promoted to corporal only about three weeks ago, news was received here this week that he had advanced another grade. Elected judge of the recorder's court last November and given leave by the county commissioners for the duration, Sergeant Gaylord is in the Army Air Corps, stationed at Camp Luna, Las Vegas, N. Mex.

The ration board urges applicants to be sure to give correct mailing addresses. A great many allotments of tires, kerosene, etc., are being returned to the office because of incorrect addresses. Where two families live at the same house, it is recommended that mail addressed to one be sent in care of the other.

Local stores will begin closing at 9 o'clock Saturday nights, beginning next week. It was learned this morning that 24 of the approximately 30 members of the merchants' association have agreed to this, and the 9 o'clock closing hour will become effective Saturday, January 23. Not a single signature had been recorded in opposition up to this time.

Pfc. Nathan W. Spruill, jr., formerly of Roper, was last week promoted to corporal in the Quartermaster Corps at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas. Corporal Spruill is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan W. Spruill, sr., of near Roper.

Mrs. W. S. (Bill) Davenport and little daughter, Betty returned last Monday after spending about three months on the West Coast with Mr. Davenport, who is attending a Naval Technical School at San Francisco. Mrs. Davenport and daughter are now living with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. I. Collins, at Mackeys.

E. S. (Ted) Blount, chief observer for the aircraft warning post to be erected here said this morning that 22 persons had volunteered for service as observers. Other volunteers are needed and they are urged to give their names to Mr. Blount as soon as possible.

Chief Air Raid Warden P. W. Brown said today that work was expected to get underway on the observation tower here the latter part of the week. It will be located on the Hampton lot, and should be in operation in about a week.

Draft Board Begins Task Reclassifying Farmers of County

37 Placed in Class 2-C at Recent Meetings; Others To Be Considered

The Washington County Selective Service Board has begun the task of reclassifying county farmers who are subject to provisions of the selective service act. So far only men without dependents have been considered, and a total of 37 of them have been placed in class 2-C, which means that they are considered as essential farmers and deferred from military service for the present time.

Men in this class are not deferred for any definite period of time, but in a number of "border-line" cases the men were classed as "2-C, Conditional," which means that they have six months in which to increase their acreages of essential crops or number of livestock to bring their total war units up to 16, as required of farmers in the "C" classification. Men given the conditional classification were given the benefit of doubt when the number of war units they were entitled to were within a fraction of the 16 required.

Included in the 37 already classified as 2-C are 32 white and 5 colored farmers, as follows:

White: John F. Carter, Jr., Hubert L. Dumbair, Dennis R. Oliver, Charles M. Hassell, Walter S. Bowen, Charles W. Smith, Jr., Heber Allgood, Grady Modlin, Luther N. Allen, Archibald J. Craddock, Henry H. Wynn, Lloyd A. Norman, Walter A. Grimes, Richard H. Lucas, George L. Chesson, Alfred G. Alexander, Frederick G. Simpson, Louis T. Gurganus, Joseph E. Swain, Hubert R. Chesson, Grady W. Biggs, Chester A. Davenport, Irving W. Ambrose, Lehman P. Ambrose, Halle A. Davenport, Archie G. Barber, Harry P. Swain, James R. Reddick, Thomas W. Spruill, Charles W. Spruill, Edison W. Patrick, Willie H. Spruill.

Colored: Walter J. Norman, Willie E. Smithwick, Gervis L. Bryant, Lawrence Norman, and John Owens.

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AND WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS

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Draft Quota for January 26 Reduced 20 Per Cent, From 75 to 60 White Men

The local selective service board has received a 20 per cent reduction in the call for white men to report at Fort Bragg for examination and possible induction on January 26. This reduces the number to be called up from 75 to 60, according to the secretary. Orders to report at the office here January 26 for the Fort Bragg trip will be sent out Saturday to the 60 men.

Mrs. Eliza Daniel, secretary to the board, said yesterday that she had been advised of the acceptance of at least 22 of the 44

colored men sent to Fort Bragg Friday of last week. Several others were held over for further examination when the 22 accepted returned Saturday for their 7-day furloughs, and she indicated some of them were probably accepted for service.

This county continues to have a record of better than 50 per cent of its colored selectees being accepted, which is higher than most other counties in the section. In some of them, the percentages of rejections are running 80 per cent and over.

Roper Youth Helped Bomb Japs in Pacific

SURPRISE VISITOR



Corporal Joseph E. White, son of Mrs. Mattie V. White, of Roper, recently spent a few days at home after nearly a year with the famous 19th Bombardment Squadron in Australia.

Officers Here to Aid In Enforcing Ban on Driving for Pleasure

No Violations Yet Reported To Office of Local Rationing Board

Local police and law enforcement officers, including state highway patrolmen, have been issued specific instructions to begin checking automobiles in an effort to see that the "no pleasure driving" order issued last week by the Office of Price Administration is strictly observed in this section. The officers are being furnished small slips of paper to be handed to drivers suspected of violating the ban summoning them to appear before their local rationing board to show cause why their gas ration should not be cancelled.

Mrs. J. K. Reid, secretary to the local rationing board, said yesterday that so far no reports of violations had been received at the office of the board; but it was reported here yesterday that an OPA investigator was

Clinics Planned for Horses and Mules

By W. V. HAYS, County Agent

To all Washington County farmers: The war has eliminated new tractors, and the price of horses and mules is almost prohibitive. This makes it more important than ever before that our work stock have proper attention to feeding, management, treatment for internal parasites and that their teeth are in condition to eat.

A cooperative arrangement has been worked out between the state veterinarian and Dr. A. J. Osteen, of Williamston, and Washington County, whereby horse and mule clinics will be held in four different sections of the county beginning at Plymouth next Monday, January 18. At these clinics work stock will be examined free of charge and recommendations made for treatment. Dr. Osteen will be prepared to do dental work, administer treatment for internal parasites when necessary and do minor surgical operations such as bad feet, warts etc. The charge for his services and medicine will be nominal.

Remember these clinics will be held only in the afternoons. The schedule is as follows:

Plymouth, Joe Shugar's stable, 1 p. m., Monday, January 18; Roper, W. W. Mizell's Gin, 1 p. m., Tuesday, January 19; Skinnerville, Hubert Davenport's Store at Davenport Forks, 1 p. m., Wednesday, January 20; Cherry, Company Mill, 1 p. m., Thursday, January 21.

Home on Surprise Visit; Served With Famous Squadron

Joined 19th Bombardment Group in Australia After Fall of Philippines

Mrs. Mattie V. White, of Roper was very agreeably surprised during the Christmas season, when her son, Corporal Joseph E. White, of the United States Army Air Service, arrived at home December 29 for an unexpected visit. Mrs. White did not even know that her son, who has seen considerable action both in the air and on the ground in Australia and New Guinea during the past year, was in the United States when he walked in unannounced and remained home for a few days before returning to duty.

Corporal White enlisted in January of last year, when he was only 19 years of age, and he remained in this country only about a month before he was sent to Australia. He was assigned to the famous 19th Bombardment Group, which had seen action in the Philippines before it was moved to Australia. Captain Colin Kelly was attached to this outfit and was its first officer killed in action.

Corporal White was the tail gunner on a B-17 "Flying Fortress," and saw plenty of action in the Solomon Islands area. He was also in both the first and second Coral Sea battles, when the Japs launched their invasion on New Guinea and, as his mother says, "helped bomb hell out of them."

In addition the young man was engaged in some ground action, where he escaped injury, although he had his wrist watch shot off and a quick dive into a shallow trench was all that saved his life. While at home he expressed a desire to return to action as soon as his leave expired. He made no statements as to what unit he would report to, but he seemed to be anxious to get back into the fight. Corporal White is a graduate of the Roper High School, where he was very active in basketball and all other sports.

It was announced in Washington January 7th that the 19th Bombardment Squadron that day received its fourth citation as a unit, although what exploit brought the citation to this most-decorated outfit of the war was not explained. Individual decorations were made for aerial bombing raids on last August 7, 9 and 12 on the Japanese base at Rabaul, New Britain.

The 19th had previously received its third citation as a unit for raids which were in the nature of a covering operation for the Marine landings on Guadalcanal. In fact, the raids may have been the key to the successes of the American landings in the Solomons, destroying Jap shipping, facilities and planes which otherwise might have been used in attacking American transports un-

(See ROPER YOUTH, Page 6)

Tax Listing Shows More Rapid Speed

County Tax Supervisor Ed. F. Swain, of Creswell, in town yesterday, said that listing had picked up considerably throughout the county in the last week. He would make no estimate as to the percentage of property listed to date, but said that the work was further advanced than usual at this time. The supervisor stated that so far as he knew at this time, there would be no extension granted, and all taxpayers are warned to have their property listed before the first of February to avoid penalties.

Mr. Swain also said it was not necessary to report anticipated plantings this year, as previously reported. Crop acreages for the past year must be listed, but not for the coming season. In former years it was customary to get this information, but when the time for listing was changed from April 1 to January 1, the practice was abandoned.

Restrictions Placed On Mail for Men in U.S. Army Overseas

Newspapers and Packages Principally Affected; Effective January 15

The Post Office Department, through the local postmaster, John W. Darden, this week announced that a number of restrictions would become effective Friday, January 15, on mail addressed to men in the Army through APO's overseas. The restrictions apply only to personnel of the Army and are not effective on mail addressed to men in the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. It was explained that the volume of mail addressed to overseas destinations must be kept to a minimum, due to limited facilities available at present.

The restrictions will apply principally to the mailing of newspapers and packages. No newspapers will be accepted for dispatch to APO's outside the continental United States except from publishers where subscriptions are specifically requested in writing by the addressee or for which subscriptions are now in effect. This means that relatives may no longer mail copies of newspapers themselves to men overseas who receive their mail through Army post offices. Future subscriptions must be requested by the men themselves in writing to the newspapers they wish to receive. This does not apply to those overseas who are already subscribers.

No parcel of more than 5 pounds in weight, or more than 15 inches in length, or more than 36 inches in length and girth combined will be accepted for overseas mailing through APO's. Even packages conforming to these sizes will not be accepted unless they contain only such articles as are being sent at the specific written request of the addressee, approved by the battalion or similar unit commander of the addressee.

V-mail will be transmitted to all APO's overseas and transported by airplane when such facilities are available. Regular mail prepaid at the air-mail rate will be transported by airplane as far as the port of embarkation, but the War Department advises that no assurance can be given that such letters, other than V-mail, will be sent by airplane from ports of embarkation to localities overseas served by V-mail.

No circular matter of the third class will be dispatched to APO's overseas.

In order to mail a package to a soldier who receives his mail through an APO overseas, the following procedure is necessary: The individual desiring to receive a parcel must include in his written request a general

(See OVERSEAS MAIL, Page 4)

Merchants To Lend Aid To War Effort

The Plymouth Merchants Association, at its regular meeting Monday night, delegated a committee to secure information that will enable members to join with storekeepers throughout the nation in keeping patriotic campaigns and undertakings before the general public throughout the year 1943. Several local merchants expressed their willingness to devote at least one show window continuously to advertising various features of the salvage campaign, sale of War Bonds and Stamps, and such other patriotic movements as may be undertaken during the year.

The government's request to shorten store hours in order to conserve fuel was discussed at some length, and all of the 14 members present were in favor of doing anything considered reasonable to help. However, store hours here have already been shortened about as much as possible at this time, although the 14 present did agree to close at 9 o'clock on Saturday nights instead of 10, provided a majority of the membership accepted such a plan. Absent members are being canvassed, and if agreeable to a majority, local stores will begin closing an hour earlier Saturday night of next week. Further notice will be given in the Beacon next Thursday.

Lot Tobacco Seed Improperly Kept

Farm Agent W. V. Hays said today that a good many county farmers have brought in tobacco seed for cleaning before sowing their plant beds this year. Some of the seed have been stored in tightly fastened fruit jars, he said, and it is considered doubtful that they will germinate, as they have a decidedly moldy odor. Even if they do germinate, they may not have sufficient vitality to withstand cold weather, frost, and especially blue mold, according to the agent. Mr. Hays advises that in the future tobacco seed should be kept in cloth bags in a dry well-ventilated room.

Creswell Youth Reported Missing In Action; Second From County To Be Lost During Present War

State Purchase of Elmhurst Land for Relocating Test Farm Not Completed

Although several stories have appeared in newspapers to the effect that the State has completed negotiations for relocating the Blackland Experiment station on the Elmhurst farm near Roper, it was learned from thoroughly reliable sources here yesterday that the deal has not yet been closed, although conferences are still being held to iron out technicalities which are holding up the matter.

Removal of the many activities carried on at the Wenona station is being made necessary by ground fires which damaged much of the area. Some of these fires have burned for upwards of

two years, and in some cases the peat soil has been destroyed to a depth of 18 inches or more. A committee was appointed by the state agriculture board last summer, with instructions to select a site somewhere in this section for relocating the Blackland farm. After looking over a number of farms, the Elmhurst site was selected as most suitable by the commission and negotiations begun for purchase or lease.

Although the deal has not been completed, agreement has been reached except for a few technicalities; and if they are cleared up, it is believed the matter will go through in the near future.

Grand Jury Criticizes Condition of Buildings

Recommendations For Improvement Submitted to Court

Number Schools and Court-house Said Not Kept Properly Cleaned

The Washington County grand jury, making its report to Judge E. Everett Thompson, of Elizabeth City, in superior court here this week was very critical of conditions found existing in a number of county-owned buildings, including the courthouse and numerous schools. That the group had made an exhaustive investigation is shown by the fact that specific recommendations for correction were made.

Few departments of the county government totally escaped criticism and suggested reforms, but a majority of the suggestions were directed to the county commissioners and board of education. The jury closed its report with the comment that like recommendations in the past had been "filed and forgotten," and after asking if failure to comply did not constitute contempt of court, requested that previous reports be presented to the court and non-compliance "be dealt with according to their value and importance."

In addition to reporting on conditions found in various county-owned buildings, the group cited a number of justices of the peace for failure to file monthly reports as required by law. One of the justices so cited, W. H. Peele, of Plymouth, filed his report later in the day Monday and turned over to the clerk fines collected up to that date.

Although criticism was leveled at several agencies, the jury took occasion to commend the work being done by certain others, including the keeper of the county home, county garage, school lunch rooms under the supervision of the state health department, and the people at large for the little crime reported in the county.

The grand jury was composed of the following: J. C. Swain, foreman; J. F. Porter, J. W. Presswood, W. C. Sexton, Archie W. Tetterton, Roy C. Chesson, A. B. Davenport, T. H. Davis, E. L. Davis, William C. Spruill, E. J. Spruill, L. E. Woodley, Gray Alexander, A. J. Davenport, C. L. Everett, Louis E. Furlough, Roy T. Hopkins, C. L. Hufton.

The complete text of the report, which was signed by J. C. Swain, foreman, is as follows:

We the Grand Jury submit the following report:

Item I—The Grand Jury passed on all bills of indictment presented to us by the solicitor. From the small number of bills it appears to us there is very little crime in the county. The citizenship should be commended.

Item II—Plymouth High School and Hampton Academy. These buildings are in a bad state of repair. All wash-rooms do not have sufficient urinals, stools or wash basins for the number of children enrolled. In our opinion the whole set-up should be dismantled and sufficient wash-room facilities installed to take care of the growing needs. Every class room should be painted and new curtains installed. Members of the school faculty cooperating with parents and pupils are endeavoring to solicit funds to have this work done. We are of the opinion the board of education should take care of this item. On the east end of the building, bricks are loose over the arch causing a very dangerous hazard from falling bricks.

Item III—Plymouth Colored School: There are a number of leaks in the roof but is now undergoing repairs. Several windows which are out should be replaced. The toilet facilities are maintained in poor manner inadequate for the home. It does not prepare anyone to care for the sick for hire. A certificate will be given to those who complete the course.

(See GRAND JURY, Page 2)

MAKE EVERY PAY DAY BOND DAY!

JOIN THE PAY-ROLL SAVINGS PLAN

Bosie Bateman, Son Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Bateman, on Juneau

Cruiser Sunk Near Guadalcanal During Night Battle in Mid-November

Bosie Ayldett Bateman, the 23-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Bateman, of Creswell, this week became the second Washington County service man to be reported "missing in action" since the United States entered the war December 7, 1941. His parents received a brief message from the Navy Department simply stating that he was missing, but giving no details. However, the young seaman was last reported on the light cruiser "Juneau," which the Navy Department this week announced was lost in the big naval battle with the Japanese in the vicinity of Guadalcanal in mid-November, and it is supposed that he was lost at that time.

The young man, widely known as Bosie Bateman, was a star athlete at Creswell High School, where he graduated in 1941. He was an outstanding student, winning one award for scholarship and two others for his ability as a basketball and baseball player in his senior year. He enlisted in the Navy on May 13, 1941, most immediately after graduating from school, and received his training in Norfolk. He was last home on June 17th of last year, and his parents continued to hear from him until sometime in October. Universally popular, the news that he was missing cast a pall of sadness over the community when it was received this week.

Young Bateman was 22 years old last June. He was born and raised in Creswell, where his father was fireman at the school for many years. He was a member of the Episcopal church there. Besides his parents, he is survived by two sisters, Retha Lane and Mary Bateman, and two brothers, Monroe and Henry Bateman, all of whom live in Creswell except the last-named brother, who has been in the Army at Fort Bragg since last June.

The young man's father, H. R. Bateman, is now employed at the plant of the North Carolina Pulp Company here, and in an interview yesterday stated he had little hope that his son had been picked up but not reported by one of the accompanying vessels, although reminded that such cases have several times occurred in other naval actions during this war. He said that young Bateman was a splendid swimmer and could remain afloat for considerable lengths of time.

The "Juneau" was a 6,000-ton cruiser of the "Atlanta" class and

(See MISSING YOUTH, Page 6)

George L. Marriner Passes Suddenly at His Home in Roper

Victim of Sudden Heart Attack Monday Morning; Funeral Wednesday

George Lee Marriner, well known citizen of the Roper community, died suddenly at his home there Monday morning about 6 o'clock. He had not been ill and his death came as a shock to relatives and friends throughout the county, where he was widely known and well liked. He suffered a sudden heart attack and died before a physician could reach him.

Born March 22, 1891, the son of the late G. H. and Rosie Peacock, of Roper, he was nearly 52 years of age. He lived practically all of his life in the Roper section of Washington County except for about three years when he lived in Belhaven. He returned to the county about two years ago from Belhaven and has since been employed at the plant of the North Carolina Pulp Company at Plymouth. He was an active member of the Free Will Baptist church at Roper. About 25 years ago he was married to Miss Emma Chesson, of Roper, who survives him.

Besides his widow, Mrs. Emma Chesson Marriner, of Roper, Mr. Marriner leaves one daughter, Mrs. Leigh Lahab, of Belhaven; a son, Robert C. Marriner, of Baltimore, Md.; one sister, Mrs. W. H. Cooper, of Great Bridge, Va.; and two brothers, J. J. Marriner, of Williamston. Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the late home by the Rev. A. J. Mackie, of Belhaven, assisted by the Rev. G. C. Wood, of Roper. Interment followed in the Belhaven cemetery.

Pall-bearers were J. J. Hassell, Henry Tarkington, Barton Sawin, R. C. Peacock, Lewis, Mizelle and H. L. Lewis.