

Plans are under consideration by the county library committee to extend the facilities of the public library to the Weona section, it was stated last week. Plymouth, Mackeys, Roper and Creswell are already being served, and interest in reading is growing steadily. February circulation of books in the library totaled 1,065. Bulletins concerning the planting and cultivation of gardens are now available at the library.

Warrick Gurkin, who entered active service with the Army Air Corps a few weeks ago, is now stationed at Nashville, Tenn., it was learned from his father, L. W. Gurkin, Monday. The young flying cadet expects to be transferred soon to a field in Florida, where he will begin actual training to become a pilot.

Teachers of the county met at the Roper High School last Friday afternoon to hear Mrs. Julia Weatherington, of the State Department of Education discuss the 12-year program in the schools of North Carolina.

W. T. Freeman is offering, without cost, one-acre garden plots to the first 20 persons to apply to him, he said this week. The land is located about 4 or 5 miles from Plymouth, and he says he is willing to donate use of it this year in furtherance of the Victory Garden program.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Scherr, who have been operating Scherr's Department Store here for about four years, are planning to sell out their stock and go out of business. They are launching a going-out-of-business sale tomorrow, and plan to close the store as soon as the stock is disposed of.

County and town tax collectors are reminding taxpayers that the penalty on unpaid 1942 taxes goes up another 1 per cent after April 1. Taxes paid by Thursday of next week will have only 2 per cent added. After then, the penalty is 3 per cent.

Captain S. E. Nestor, of the Army Air Corps, formerly purchasing agent for the North Carolina Pulp Company here, is now stationed at Patterson Field, near Dayton, Ohio. It was learned yesterday from his son, Stuart Nestor, who is leaving tomorrow with the group of county selectees for Fort Bragg. Captain and Mrs. Nestor and two daughters are living at New Carlisle, Ohio.

County Agent W. V. Hays; J. R. Manning, president, and L. E. Hassell, secretary of the county Farm Bureau, left this morning to attend a meeting of the State Farm Bureau Federation officers in Raleigh. They will return tomorrow night. The Farm Bureau is planning to wage a strenuous fight for favorable farm legislation at the present session of Congress.

### George Edw. Allen Dies at Home Here

George Edward Allen, 67 years old, died at his home here last Friday morning as the result of a stroke of paralysis. Mr. Allen had been in declining health for about two years and had been confined to his bed for several days before the end came. Son of the late Gabriel and Sallie Twiddy Allen, he was born in Martin County August 16, 1875. He came to Plymouth from the Dardens section about 40 years ago and has lived here since that time. He was never married.

Funeral services were held from the late home Sunday afternoon at 3 p. m., by the Rev. B. E. Taylor, pastor of the local Christian church, and interment was made in the Bateman cemetery about 4 miles from Plymouth on the Washington Highway.

Mr. Allen is survived by three sisters, Mrs. Ella Bateman and Mrs. Frank Bateman, of Plymouth; and Mrs. J. T. Jefferson, of Bath. He also leaves several nephews and nieces.

### Services Each Tuesday at Roper Episcopal Church

Services will be held at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Roper, each Tuesday evening in Lent. The services will be conducted by the Rev. William B. Daniels, Jr., and will begin at 8 P. M.

### County War Board and Draft Board Get Together on Farm Deferments

Claims of farm workers for draft deferment in the future will be decided by the county war board and the selective service board working in conjunction with each other, it was decided at a joint meeting of the two boards held here last Friday night. Heretofore, the classification and deferment of all registrants has rested solely in the discretion of members of the draft board.

Details of the method for handling farm draft deferment were discussed by the two boards. It was announced that the war-unit base will continue to be used as a yardstick in determining whether or not a registrant should be deferred. Those who are responsible for the produc-

For Victory... Buy UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS \* STAMPS

VOLUME LIV—NUMBER 12

Plymouth, Washington County, North Carolina, Thursday, March 25, 1943

ESTABLISHED 1889

### Victory Garden Program in This County Put Over in Big Way by Point Rationing

The Victory Garden movement is gaining momentum rapidly throughout Washington County, a casual survey this week reveals. Backed by practically all civic, social and religious organizations, it is regarded as virtually certain that there will be more gardens this year than ever before in the history of the county.

### All Farmers Must File Statements Soon With Office of Draft Board

#### Herring Fishing Season Starting

The annual spring run of herring up Roanoke River is starting, although very few have been taken at this point so far. Fishermen using drift nets are picking up a few, and the price is the highest reported here in years.

Various prices were quoted yesterday, one man was offering them at 3 for 25 cents, another 4 for 25 cents, while a third wanted 15 cents a pound for them. Shad, caught in the sound, were quoted at 25 cents a pound.

It is understood that the seine will be put in the river at the Jamesville fishery next week. The two big fisheries on the river just above here closed down about four years ago after having been in continuous operation for upwards of 100 years.

### 33 Registrants Now Scheduled To Go To Fort Bragg Friday

#### List Has Lost Three and Gained One Since Published Last Week

Since the list of men called to report Friday morning for possible induction was published last week, the local draft board has made several changes. Two of those named have been granted temporary postponements of induction, one other has been transferred to another board, while the board gained one when a volunteer showed up with a request to leave with the contingent this week. As a result, the list of 33 published last week suffered a net loss of 2, and only 33 are supposed to report in the morning for the trip to Fort Bragg.

The original call on the Washington County board was for 55 men, but the board was unable to get that many men ready in time to leave tomorrow. Another group, of 35 white men, is scheduled to leave here Monday, April 12.

Changes made since last week in the list leaving tomorrow are as follows: Charles Rowe Gaither, Creswell, was granted a postponement to permit him to finish the current school term; Arthur Randolph Spruill, of Roper, granted temporary postponement; Edsel Grayson Barnes, Creswell, was transferred to the Fort-Moore, Va., board; and Junior Lee Jackson, of Plymouth, volunteered to go with the group this week.

week that no difficulty had been experienced along this line. Several colored people have been making a regular business out of plowing gardens, and they have done all right, too.

Giving due credit to promotion of gardening by schools, civic clubs, churches, merchants associations, newspapers, social clubs, county agents, and all the others, the one thing that has done most to put the movement over was the canned-goods rationing program. When the point schedules were announced, garden seed sales started climbing and have never been headed.

Blessed with a climate and soils that will grow just about every kind

of field and garden crop, this section has taken to gardening as a duck takes to water. Practically everyone has a yen to show what he can do with a hoe, and the point-rationing business provided the necessary impetus to get him started. Some of the early enthusiasm may melt down under the influence of the hot June and July sun, but it will be a matter of pride with most gardeners to see the job through.

Whatever else may be said about the OPA, in the matter of timing it hit the jackpot in this section; and if the Scriptural pronouncement, "As ye sow, so shall ye reap" holds good, there's going to be a heck of a lot of reaping in Washington County this year.

#### TO BE HOME SOON



Sergeant Augustus R. Patrick, Jr., wounded in the foot and knee in African fighting, is improving and expects to be home on a visit soon, according to a letter received from him by his parents this week.

### Includes Those Who Have Children and Between 38 and 45

#### Statements Must Be Accurate; Will Be Checked Against Farm Plans

Washington County farmers who are in the draft age, between 18 and 45, are requested to file farm statements, verified by the county AAA committee, together with farm serial number, with the local selective service board immediately, according to a statement made this week by Mrs. Eliza Daniels, secretary to the board. It was said that both those who have children or other dependents and those who have none should file the statements.

Many farmers have already filed such statements, Mrs. Daniels said, but there are many others who have not, especially those between 38 and 45, since they have not been subject to call up to this time.

The farm statements should be complete, showing all farm activities planned for the current year. Included should be number of acres in farm, number acres cleared, acreage to each kind of crop, number and kind of livestock, poultry, etc. This information should be submitted to the county AAA committee for verification, and the farm serial number should be shown.

It was stated that farm statements submitted to the selective service board will be checked with AAA farm plans signed in the office of the county agent. Those who have not signed farm plans are warned to do so immediately, as one is checked against the other in determining the classification of registrants subject to the selective service laws.

Beginning April 1, the cases of all registrants in class 3-A below the age of 38 will be re-opened for possible reclassification. After that date dependency has been ruled no longer a basis for deferment, and farmers along with all others, are subject to reclassification in 1-A unless they have their farm statements filed with the board.

Then, beginning May 1, the cases of all registrants between the ages of 38 and 45 are to be studied for possible reclassification, and here again farmers who have not filed their farm statements are subject to be put in a class which may result in their immediate call for induction.

### Expect Surprise Blackout Here in Next Few Days

"One hundred per cent" is the way Chief Air Raid Warden P. W. Brown described the test blackout last Friday night. Not a single case of non-compliance with the regulations was reported, and civilian defense officials were well pleased with the manner in which the test was carried out.

Warning is now given that an unannounced blackout will be called in this section sometime between now and next Thursday, April 1. No advance notice will be given, and people are requested to be prepared at all times to comply with regulations governing the blackouts.

### Roper Young Man Gets Promotion To Sergeant

Albert T. Tarkington, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Tarkington, of Roper, has recently been promoted from corporal to the grade of sergeant, according to an announcement by the authorities at the Army Air Forces Proving Ground Command at Eglin Field, Fla. Sergeant Tarkington has been in the Army since July 23, 1941.

### Parents Get Letter From Son Wounded In African Fighting

#### Sgt. A. R. Patrick, Jr., Improving and Expects To Be Home Soon

Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Patrick, sr., of Roper, R. F. D., were greatly relieved this week to receive a letter from their son, Sergeant Augustus R. Patrick, jr., who was wounded in action on January 31 in the Middle East or North African war zone. The letter stated that he was improving rapidly and that he would soon be returning to the United States for a visit home.

In his letter, dated March 10 at a general hospital in North Africa, Sergeant Patrick stated that he was wounded in the foot and knee. He said that his knee wound was completely healed and that his foot would be healed soon. He did not state how the injuries were received.

The sergeant was a gunner on a bomber and has seen considerable action since he has been in the Middle East. Early this year he received a medal from Brigadier General Timberlake in recognition of "meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight, having participated in 100 hours of operational flight against the enemy." He has been in the service nearly three years.

His parents think it possible he was wounded and his plane shot down at the same time, as in his letter he mentions two friends who have been serving with him, "Cliff" and "Street," as "believed alive but prisoners of war."

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick were notified by the War Department several weeks ago that their son had been wounded in action, but they had been unable to learn the nature of his wounds or how serious they were until his letter was received this week. The American Red Cross had been attempting to get in touch with him for the anxious parents, but had not been successful.

### Fuel-Oil Users Advised To Save 'Identity Stub'

Oil-rationed householders were cautioned yesterday by T. S. Johnson, State OPA director, to preserve the "identity stub" of their heating ration, as it will be required when next winter's rations are used.

The "stub" is the remaining part of the coupon sheet after all the individual coupons have been removed. It contains the code number of the individual's ration, the date of issuance and expiration, the amount of the ration, and similar information. Local boards will require the consumer to present the stub when 1943-44 rations are distributed.

The present plan is to issue the new rations during the early part of the summer

### Over \$300 in Fines Levied on Violators In Court This Week

#### Recorder Hits Jackpot by Convicting 11 Defendants Tuesday

Town, county and state law enforcement officers had a hectic week-end, and Sunday morning Sheriff J. K. Reid's jail had more inmates than it has had in a long, long time. Fights, drunkenness and violations of the motor vehicle laws were responsible for the increased population of the jail and a big docket in recorder's court at the regular session Tuesday.

Eleven defendants were tried by Recorder Edward L. Owens at the court session, two of them on two counts, and not a single one escaped unscathed. Several jail sentences were metered out, and a total of \$320 in fines, besides court costs and a \$20 doctor's bill, was assessed against the law violators. Despite the large number of cases, only about two hours were required to dispose of the docket at the Tuesday session. Proceedings in the court were as follows:

James Thomas Hassell, colored, of Creswell; operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license and without a 1943 license tab; \$80 and costs. This was Hathaway's second offense on the charge of driving without an operator's permit and accounts for the large fine assessed against him.

Mitchell Boston, colored, of Martin County, was fined \$10 and costs for operating a car with improper brakes.

James Bell, colored, of Plymouth, answered to two charges of assault with a deadly weapon and was given six months on the county farm on each count, the sentences to run consecutively. The sentence was later suspended upon payment of a fine of \$100 and costs.

Willie Sexton, white, of Roper, was convicted on two counts of public drunkenness and being a nuisance, drawing a fine of \$10 and the costs in the first case and \$20 and costs in the second case. In addition he is to pay an additional \$15 fine if his ABC rationing book is not surrendered to the court by Saturday of this week.

Nathan Barnes, white, of Roper, was relieved of his ABC book and \$15 and the costs for being publicly drunk.

Sam Moore, colored, of Plymouth, was given 6 months on the county farm for forcible trespass and assault.

Willie Taylor, colored, of Plymouth, also charged with forcible trespass and assault, was sentenced to 6 months on the roads, suspended upon the payment of \$35 and costs and showing good behavior for one year.

Lexington Gibbs, colored, of Plymouth; assault with a deadly weapon; sentenced to six months on the roads, suspended upon payment of \$30 and costs and a \$20 doctor's bill.

Douglas Phelps, white, of Creswell, was fined \$10 and costs for operating a car with improper brakes and without the 1943 license tab.

Albert Ash was fined \$5 and costs for operating an auto with improper brakes.

### Local Colored Man Victory Gardening On Wholesale Scale

#### Plans To Supply Himself And Members of Club From 2-Acre Plot

Charlie Agnew, colored employee of the North Carolina Pulp Company here, is planning to go into Victory Gardening on a wholesale scale this year. In fact, Charlie not only figures on supplying his own needs for green vegetables during the coming months, but also to help out a number of less-industrious fellow workers and at the same time make a few extra dollars for himself.

Charlie took advantage of the pulp mill's offer to provide garden space for employees by requesting and securing permission to use two acres of land at the village near here. Formerly a farmer himself, Agnew then hired a tractor and had the land put in first-class condition for planting.

Next he formed a garden club among fellow employees. For \$2 a week members of the club are entitled to gather all the vegetables they need during the summer months. Membership is limited, and Agnew's wife will keep check to see that each member gets his fair share of vegetables to eat, although there will be none for canning purposes. So far, there are about 30 members of the club, it is stated.

Agnew will continue his work at the pulp mill, while work on the garden will be done by himself after working hours, with the assistance of his wife. If the same amount of ingenuity, initiative and organizational ability was shown by national officers in Washington, the rationing and manpower problems would be only a breeze.

### Red Cross Campaign Is Nearing Close With Quota Oversubscribed

#### Stores Continue To Open at Nine

At a special meeting of the merchants association held Tuesday afternoon, local storekeepers decided to continue opening their stores at 9 o'clock each morning after the Wednesday half holidays are begun in April. At one time merchants had talked about returning to the 8 o'clock opening hour when they started the half holidays, but they voted against this in the meeting Tuesday.

The first half holiday will be observed on Wednesday, April 7. The association also voted Tuesday to make a \$25 contribution to the Red Cross War Fund Drive.

### Agriculture Council Discusses Shortage Of Labor on Farms

#### Corrective Steps Are Being Planned To Relieve Conditions

The shortage of farm labor was discussed at some length by members of the county agricultural workers' council in a meeting here Tuesday night. While no definite program for relieving present conditions was decided several corrective steps were suggested, and it is likely that a more specific program will be evolved and put into operation within the near future.

The council also discussed the meat rationing program, which will be instituted throughout the nation next week, and the members will take the lead in seeing that it is explained throughout all farming sections.

Machinery rationing likewise claimed the attention of the group. The discussion centered around farm machinery needs and recommendations for the current year. Considerations were given the expected change in methods of farming in this section, particularly as it refers to the need of more machinery to take the place of farm labor drafted into the armed forces. Shortage of labor will necessarily increase the amount of work to be done by each individual farmer, which in turn means that additional machinery will be required.

The agricultural workers' council is composed of the vocational agricultural teachers in the county. C. H. Floyd at Roper and A. H. Tucker at Creswell; the county agent, W. V. Hays; W. W. Bowen and Mrs. McMillan, of the Farm Security Administration; Miss Ursula Bateman, superintendent of the county welfare department; J. L. Rea, assistant director in charge of the Blackland Experiment Station at Weona; S. P. Darden, county forest warden; and W. D. Moore, community manager of the Seppernong Farms project.

### Bond Quota for Month Very Nearly Doubled

Bond sales in Plymouth have reached a total of \$35,725 for the month of March up to today, according to H. E. Beam, county chairman. The bank here has sold \$21,725 worth of bonds, while post offices sales amounted to \$14,000. The county quota for the month was \$21,234.

No reports have been received from Roper and Creswell, but it is believed total sales will be about double the quota for the month when all returns are in.

### Farmers Who Delivered Oil Peanuts To Government May Receive Bonus

There are some rumors going the rounds, although they cannot be substantiated, that farmers who last year delivered excess peanuts to the government crop-storing agency for crushing into oil are due to receive a cash bonus over the 3 1/2 cents paid on delivery. The Peanut Growers' Cooperative handled the "oil" peanuts for the government, and it is known that they have made some sales in recent weeks at prices considerably above that paid to the growers.

No one could be found who would speculate on the amount of any bonus which might be paid to farmers who delivered the excess peanuts. However, it is said that after the cooperative sells all of the peanuts it has on

### Over \$3,000 in Sight To Date, Chairman States; Quota \$2,700

#### Reports Are Still Not Complete, And Drive Being Continued

Washington County is well over its quota of \$2,700 in the Red Cross War Fund Drive, and total collections are expected to pass the \$3,000 mark when all reports are in, John W. Darden, chairman of the county chapter, said this morning.

Mrs. T. W. Earle, chairman of the War Fund Drive for all parts of the county except Creswell, said yesterday afternoon that \$2,533.87 had already been collected by canvassers working under her direction. Her report is not yet complete, as more than \$100 in pledges made by workmen at the pulp mill remain to be collected, and several individual canvassers have some additional calls to make.

Mrs. Sidney Smithson, chairman of the drive for the Creswell unit, has not yet reported, but it is understood that their quota of \$450 will be raised. In a telephone conversation with Mr. Darden yesterday, she stated that more than enough had been collected to finish out the county quota of \$2,700 and that the drive was being continued there through next week.

So far, every subdivision of the county has more than raised its quota or indicated that it would. In Plymouth and Roper, it was difficult to get an exact division of the white and colored contributions, since many colored workmen turned in their donations through the plants where they are employed. It is known, however, that the colored quotas of \$200 each for Plymouth and Roper were surpassed, as were the quotas for white and colored schools and white people in Plymouth and Roper.

Mrs. Earle said that the Red Cross booth in front of the community building here would again be in operation Saturday, and those who have been missed in the general canvass are requested to make their contribution there. Last Saturday about \$15 or \$20 was collected at the booth. Canvassers have been somewhat handicapped by a shortage of official receipt blanks and other materials, but it could not be helped, regional headquarters of the Red Cross wrote that it was unable to supply the demand.

### Roper Ruritan Meet Next Week

By WADE HARDISON, Reporter  
Roper.—The Roper Ruritan Club will hold its regular meeting Thursday night, April 1, at the Roper High School. Plans are being made for a good program, as there will be six new members initiated in the organization at this meeting, namely, E. M. Chesson, S. A. Holton, Roy Hassell, Russell Chesson, J. C. Knowles and F. C. Tarkington. Barton Swain is program committee chairman, and everybody is expecting a good meeting.

A committee is now ready to begin landscaping the school grounds, which we feel will add much beauty to the school and our community. Wade Hardison, zone governor of district E. E. Tom Norman, Barton Swain, Henry Everett and Mack (Shot) Marrow are planning to meet with the Celerian club April 6 to discuss club objectives for the year.

The writer feels that Ruritan is now needed as never before, and with 26 members now, compared with 15 last year at this same time, we can really get down and do some real work for the benefit of our government and community.