

GATES COUNTY INDEX

The Only Newspaper Published in and for Gates County

Volume 13, No. 29

Gatesville, N. C., Wednesday, March 21, 1945

(One Week Nearer Victory)

12 Pages This Week

Power Firm Plans Expansion Program For Rural Service

REA Membership Increased to 123 In Gates County

Last week's Index stated that seven neighborhood leaders had turned in 45 R.E.A. memberships. The list of memberships has now increased to a total of 123. Mrs. J. W. Blades was credited with five memberships last week. She has turned in eight since, which gives her 13.

Other leaders submitting reports on this R.E.A. project are: Mrs. Judson Ellenor, Reynoldson, 5; Mrs. J. H. Bunch, Hobbsville, 11; Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Stallings, Sandy Cross, 16; Mrs. T. E. Jackson, Drum Hill, 18. Mrs. J. B. Whitehurst, Drum Hill, leads all others with twenty memberships, followed closely by Mrs. T. E. Jackson.

Several leaders stated they expected to turn in one or two more memberships and a few leaders have not reported at all. With three signed up at the county agent's office there are now exactly 126 new applications for REA current. Perhaps by next week the final figures may be available.

The Virginia Electric and Power Company has developed and filed with the Commissions of Virginia and North Carolina a new liberalized plan for the electrification of rural areas. This plan is designed to cause a widespread extension of electric service throughout the areas served by the Company just as soon as labor and material become available for making these extensions.

The new plan proposes that, under the conditions stated below, the Company will extend its lines for rural and farm service to the customer's building or to some other delivery point on his premises, relieving the customer of the necessity of having to build any private line, as was so frequently necessary in the past. This new plan should reduce to a minimum delays in getting service, and also should result in a material saving to the farm and rural customer.

The Company will, according to the filing with the Commissions, construct at its own cost rural extensions when, in the Company's opinion, the assured monthly revenue from such extensions will average not less than \$6.00 per mile. The monthly minimum shall be not less than

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Lieut. Frederick Rountree, Sunbury, Awarded Distinguished Flying Cross; Flight Leader of Carrier Aircraft



THE DISTINGUISHED Flying Cross has been awarded to Lieut. Frederick M. Rountree, above, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Rountree of Sunbury.

Junior R.A.'s, G.A.'s To Collect Paper

The Junior R.A.'s and G.A.'s of the Gatesville Baptist Church under the leadership of Mrs. J. W. Parker are planning to collect waste paper from all the homes in Gatesville.

"This is a worthwhile project and the youngsters are to be commended for undertaking the collection of such important and badly needed salvage material. May every home in the village cooperate with Mrs. Parker and her fine group of girls and boys in their patriotic project," said John Artz, county agent.

Lieut. Frederick M. Rountree, of Sunbury, a Naval Reserve aviator who exploded six ammunition carriers, left 50 vehicles in flames and damaged 25 others during the Allied invasion of Southern France last summer, has been presented the Distinguished Flying Cross at the Naval Air Station, Anacostia, D. C.

Captain S. B. Dunlap, U. S. Navy, Commanding Officer at Anacostia, where the flyer is now based, presented the award on behalf of Vice Admiral H. K. Hewitt, U. S. Navy, Commander Eighth Fleet.

Lieutenant Rountree was flight leader of carrier-based aircraft during the invasion. Accompanying his medal is a citation which says: "With complete disregard of his own safety, made a solo low-level flight the length of the concentration in order to accurately record and report the damage suffered by the enemy columns and the further strength and disposition of his forces."

Lieutenant Rountree also holds the Silver Star Medal and a Presidential Unit Citation. He is 24 years old, a native of Sunbury, where his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Rountree are now living. His wife is living in Washington, D. C. He attended the University of North Carolina, class of 1942, and entered the Navy in January 1941.

HOME ON FURLOUGH

Gates.—Pfc. Hilda T. Eason, who has served 30 months overseas, in England, France and Germany, spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Eason. Pfc. Eason served with the 29th Division with both the third and ninth armies. He is spending a 30-day furlough with his mother, Mrs. P. M. Eason of Norfolk.



MEMBER OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.—J. A. Pritchett, Windsor attorney, was appointed last week by Governor R. Gregg Cherry as a member of the new State Board of Education. He will serve for two years.

Law Officers To Report Violations Midnight Curfew

P. B. Pollock, area manpower director of the Elizabeth City—New Bern area, embracing 21 counties in northeastern North Carolina, calls attention to the necessity for complying with the Byrnes Directive dealing with the midnight curfew which became effective Monday, February 26.

The Directive is designed to alleviate the manpower shortage, and conserve coal, electricity and transportation. The mayor and chief of police of each municipality and the sheriff of each

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Ready to Award 2nd Quarter Gas

Second quarter gasoline is now being issued for trucks on ODT certificates, W. Norfleet Hoffer, chief of the Gates County War Price and Rationing Board said today.

He said that the board would like for truck operators with valid ODT certificates to come in now and make applications for their second quarter supplies without waiting for the last-minute rush.

Mr. Hoffer said that any day except Thursdays would be best. They should also bring their 1945 registration cards, he said.

Farm Bureau Votes To Forego Meeting; Purpose Patriotism

At a special meeting of the Gates County Farm Bureau held Friday night in the office of John Artz at Gatesville, it was unanimously decided that the first quarterly meeting would be suspended in full cooperation with recent Federal regulations governing conventions and public meetings.

"This action was taken in order to avoid even the appearance of being unpatriotic in connection with the convention ban," it was said.

On tentative date "somewhere

Methodist Churches Plan Special Easter Season Activities

The Easter season will be observed by special services in Methodist churches in Sunbury and Gatesville, according to an announcement from the Rev. Thomas A. Collins.

The Sunbury Church will offer special services at the regular Sunday morning church service, Palm Sunday. Special music has been planned and arranged by Mrs. Mills Riddick in cooperation with Mrs. Marie B. Crump. Opening the service, Mrs. Margaret C. Riddick will render Chopin's Prelude in C Minor. Mills Riddick will sing "Why Should He Love Me So;" Miss Dorothy Lassiter will sing "Ave Maria."

Among those who will form the choir for the special service, according to Mr. Collins, are Blanche Brinkley, Patricia Cahoon, Beth Allen Edwards, Peggie Johnson, Margaret Jordan, Dorothy Lassiter, Jean Parker, Jacquelin Pierce, Sarah Lee Pierce, Betsy Riddick, Helen Spivey, Ellen Spivey, and John Hudgins, Hunter Morgan, Fred Parker, Mills Riddick and Cowles Spivey. The choir will be

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Herbert R. Byrum In Gen. Devers' Sixth Army Group

Pvt. Herbert R. Byrum of Corapeake is among those living up to the reputation of being the oldest organization of its type in the European Theater. The 14th Ordnance Company has combined skill and experience to set a record pace among medium maintenance units supporting the U. S. Seventh Army in Lt. Gen. Jacob L. Devers' 6th Army Group.

"The men have to be good, and they know it," said the commanding officer. "Throughout 36 months of continuous combat service they have worked hard to achieve continuously new highs in production."

The company handles its own battlefield recovery of vehicles and weapons. Contact crews visit front line positions daily, making minor repairs on the spot. Heavily damaged guns and vehicles are brought back to their shops, or evacuated to other ordnance units in the rear.

Buck is Reported Killed in Action

Full particulars are not yet available, but reports from Drum Hill and Gates state that Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Buck have been advised by the War Department that their son, Technician 5th grade Norman Buck, was killed in action in Germany on February 22.

Cpl. Smith Wins Combat Ribbons, And Bronze Star

Cpl. W. Morris Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Smith of Gatesville, radio operator and mechanic now stationed in the Hawaiian Islands with the Army Air Corps, has been awarded the Bronze Star medal, good conduct medal and his Asiatic-Pacific combat ribbons, it was learned recently in Gatesville.

Entering the service in July 1942, Cpl. Smith has been overseas in the Pacific for 22 months. He participated in the invasion of the Gilbert Islands, but has not been wounded, he writes his parents.

Assistant manager of Russell's Drug Store in Suffolk before entering the armed forces, Cpl. Smith is the husband of the former Edith Mitchell of Aulander, who at present lives there with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland Mitchell. He is 26 years old and graduated from Gatesville high school.

Sunbury Leads In Gates Methodist Crusade For Christ

On a quota of \$259 for the "Crusade for Christ", the Methodists of Sunbury have subscribed and paid more than \$400, or an amount equal to 155 percent of their quota established by the Methodist Church, according to the Rev. T. A. Collins.

Thus they lead the seven Methodist churches of Gates county in Methodism's Crusade for Christ. Next in line of achievement from Gates county is the Harrell Methodist Church for with a quota of \$125. They have paid \$165, or 132 percent of their quota. Following the two leaders, come Parker's Methodist Church and Gatesville Methodist Church.

Parker's had the biggest quota of any church in the county, \$777, and has reached it. Gatesville Methodist Church had a quota of \$200, and has just reached that amount. The remaining churches of the county have not yet reached their quotas but subscriptions are continuing.

"The work of the Crusade for Christ is the most vitally important of the Methodist people for the present as it seeks to recreate a world for Christ after this chaos, seeks to rehabilitate the needy of the world, to evangelize those who know not Christ in America, and seeks to work among the church schools of Methodism," Mr. Collins said.