



Happy NEW YEAR

The Johnstonian-Sun

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SELMA, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 1945.

NUMBER 1.

Fire Destroys Several Homes In And Near Selma

Two three-room houses near The Southern Cotton Oil Company here and occupied by colored people were totally destroyed by fire just before the Christmas holidays. Two other dwellings were badly damaged. The houses belonged to Frances Greene, of Smithfield.

The six-room residence of Paul Woodard on Highway 301, two miles north of Selma, was totally destroyed by fire Thursday afternoon Dec. 21, at 2 o'clock, together with several outbuildings, 35 barrels of corn and farm implements. Mr. Woodard's loss is estimated at \$1,500. The house and outbuildings belonged to S. V. Pitts, of Charlotte, whose loss is estimated at \$2,500. Mrs. Woodard was in the kitchen of the home baking a Christmas cake when she discovered the fire in the loft of one of the rear rooms. The household and kitchen furniture was destroyed. Paul Eason, a neighbor, was badly burned about the face when he rushed into the burning building after Mrs. Woodard, who had gone into the house to remove some articles. Mrs. Woodard was uninjured.

Mr. J. V. Pitts of Charlotte, who lost a 5-room dwelling house, barn and grain, and a pack house several days ago, spent several days here this week making plans to rebuild. The house was occupied by Paul Woodard, who lost practically all his household furniture and around 35 barrels of corn. He and family are now residing on a farm near the old home place. Mr. Pitts says there was no insurance on the burned buildings. He estimates his loss at \$5,000.00.

About 3 o'clock Tuesday afternoon the Selma Fire Department was called to the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Rose who lived just on the southern outskirts of Selma near the grade crossing where a dirt road connects Highway 301 with the Smithfield-Goldsboro highway. The fire had made so much headway when the fire department arrived that it was impossible to save the house and its contents.

Mr. and Mrs. Rose were away from home at the time and the house was locked, but neighbors who first saw smoke coming through the tin roof of the house said the fire apparently started in the attic, and it is believed there may have been a crack in the chimney as the result of that historic explosion at Gurkin's Tavern some 3 years ago.

The building belonged to Mr. W. G. Ricks, father of Mrs. Rose, which was a total loss together with all its contents.

Mrs. Rose was in The Johnstonian-Sun office Wednesday afternoon and told us that everything they had was burned except the clothes they were wearing at the time. They are now without a home or anywhere to go but will find lodging with their kindred and friends until they can make other arrangements.

The loss is estimated to be around \$5,000, with no insurance on either the house or its contents.

(Since the above was put in type we learned that another family, Jack Dail and family, occupied three rooms of the Ricks house. Mr. Dail, it will be remembered, lost his home in the explosion near Gurkin's Tavern about three years ago.)

J. C. Avery Puts On Good Kiwanis Program

Acting as Program Chairman for the Selma Kiwanis club on Thursday night, December 21, J. C. Avery did a fine job.

Several local girls did the Scotch dance for the club, accompanied by the piano by Miss Naomi Wood, Kiwanis sponsor.

Julius Williamson, superintendent at the Johnston County Convict camp near Selma, brought with him two boys who are under his supervision. These boys brought their musical instruments with them and gave several numbers that delighted club members very much.

But one of the most outstanding and enjoyable features of the program was the singing of two or three numbers by the Rev. and Mrs. J. Wade Baker of the local Baptist church.

Wilbur D. Perkins Injured On Highway

Mr. Wilbur D. Perkins of Selma, who holds a position with Clearn-M-Right Cleaners of Selma, is in the Johnston County Hospital suffering from injuries sustained early Wednesday night near Batten's Filling Station on Highway 301 between Selma and Micro when he turned the truck over which he was driving in an attempt to avoid being hit by a large truck loaded with hogs headed north.

He was taken to the hospital where it was found that he had two or more broken ribs, a badly swollen nose and a black eye caused by the accident.

We learned from the hospital today (Thursday) that he was resting as well as could be expected and that the doctors were administering a sulphur drug to ward off pneumonia.

The truck he was driving was badly damaged in the accident.

Miss Sallie Kirby Breaks Arm In Fall

Miss Sallie Kirby, who makes her home with Mrs. W. T. Kirby on Green Street here, had the misfortune to slip down and break her arm a few days before Christmas when she stepped on a potato peeling at her home here. She is getting along very nicely, although it will be some time before the bandage can be removed.

To add to the discomfort of this home, Mrs. Kirby, who spent several weeks in Johnston County Hospital for treatment last fall, is still unable to carry on the duties of the household, but we are glad that "every cloud has a silver lining," for had it not been for the aid of Melvin Watkins, a nephew of the Kirbys, of Baltimore, Md., who happened to be on a prolonged visit in the home at the time, matters would have proven even more uncomfortable, for Melvin certainly has done a good part by his kindred during these days.

Local School Teacher Suffers Broken Rib

Her many friends were sorry to learn that Miss Elizabeth Whitaker, member of the local school faculty, had the misfortune to fall down the stairs at her home near Littleton and break a rib while spending her Christmas vacation at home. Miss Whitaker did not let her injuries keep her from school, however, and is back on the job this week, despite the discomforts she is undergoing.

Selma Man Gets News That Son Is Missing

Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Lane of Selma, received news Tuesday that their son, George W. Lane, of the U. S. Navy, was missing somewhere in the Pacific. Mr. Lane told the editor of this paper Wednesday that he had no details and was still hoping that he would get better news soon.

Buy War Bonds Today!

Smithfield Tobacconist Outlines Plans For 1945

G. Willie Lee, Sales Supervisor for the Smithfield Tobacco Board of Trade, Gives Farmers A Few Pointers for Their 1945 Goal.

By G. WILLIE LEE

As we enter the New Year we, as farmers, begin to think of preparing for a new crop. We as tobacco growers, first think of fixing plant beds, of how many yards to sow, where can we find a good place to prepare a plant bed away from grass and weeds, what kind of fertilizer and how much to use, and what variety of seed to plant. All these things are very important in starting a good tobacco crop. Good plant bed location properly prepared, right kind of fertilizer, the right variety of tobacco seed adapted to the locality in which grown and a variety that has been tried in the community in which tobacco is to be grown are important factors.

All of these things demand our best in planning and putting in operation for the best tobacco crop, seasons permitting. Too, there is plenty of work involved, with less farm help means that if we grow another crop of tobacco we will have to work harder, longer hours and good planning. If you are not sure of the variety of tobacco or the best fertilizer to use, ask your neighbor who has made a success at growing tobacco, or call on your County Agent who is always ready to help.

We must not forget our 1944 crop either; our boys in service must be fed and clothed, and when we work harder and more hours we will have done little compared with what our sons are doing on the battle fronts of the world. They are looking to us farmers who are left here free, to supply their every need that comes from the farm. We did it in 1944, and with the help of God we will do it in 1945.

Selma Boy Is Member Of Wildcat Division

Sgt. George L. Marlow, son of Mrs. Ellen K. Marlow of Selma, is a member of the 81st "Wildcat" Infantry Division, and has been awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge. The Combat Infantryman Badge is awarded for exemplary conduct and skill in action against the enemy.

The Wildcat Division recently invaded the Southern Islands of the Japanese-held Palau group, 600 miles east of the Philippines.

The Director of Distribution in WFA said recently to the national canners that the present food inventory is less than 500 million dollars, about half of one year ago.

Johnston Boys Among Our Fighting Men

Among the boys from this community who are making names for themselves are:

S. Sgt. James E. Evans of Benson, Rt. 2, member of the 13th Field Artillery Brigade in France; Sgt. Robert G. Ward of Kenly; and 1st Sgt. Benjamin H. Martin of Route 2, Princeton.

Among the 630th Field Artillery Battalion in France is S. Sgt. Richard Woodard of Selma, Rt. 1.

Among the Johnston County boys in the 397th Infantry Regiment fighting on the U. S. 7th Army front in Eastern France is Pfc. Praxton E. Bailey, 110 N. Sellars St., in Selma.

Among the 3rd Field Artillery Observation Battalion, with the 6th Army Group in France, Infantrymen who are crawling on their bellies through the brush and mud at advanced outposts of the front with the doughboy's equipment are S. Sgt. Andrew J. Wiggs of Selma, Rt. 2, and M. Sgt. John D. Pearce of Micro.

The only person reported from North Carolina as being among the group giving the world-wide Christmas Choir broadcast from the 312th Station Hospital in England, composed of officers, nurses, Red Cross workers and enlisted men from 16 States serving at this U. S. Army Station hospital in England was Cpl. William T. Ellington of Selma, Rt. 2.

From the 6th Army in Italy comes word that Cpl. Roland L. Smith, son of Mrs. Rena S. Shirley of Selma, is with the 27th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, 1st Armored Division, and that the outfit has fired 300,000 rounds of munitions at the enemy. Members of this Battalion hold an imposing number of decorations—six Distinguished Service Crosses, four Croix de Guerre Medals, an Order of the Red Star, eight Legion of Merit Medals, 36 Silver Stars, 27 Bronze Stars, 375 Purple Hearts and 93 individual citations.

Selma Boy Commended By Maj. General Walker

Fort Benning, Ga. — S. Sgt. James L. Gurkin, of Selma, N. C., has been personally commended by Maj. Gen. Fred L. Walker, Commandant of The Infantry School, for his participation in the "Here's Your Infantry" show which was staged by personnel of the Third and Fourth Infantry regiments during the Sixth War Loan Drive. Eight demonstration units toured the nation under sponsorship of the Army Ground Forces and the War Finance Division of the Treasury Department in an effort to spur the sale of War Bonds.

Selma Kiwanis Club Installs New Officers

On last Thursday evening it was the pleasure of the local Kiwanis club to have with them H. N. McKethan of Fayetteville, Lieutenant Governor of the Fourth Division of the Carolina Kiwanis District, who visited the Selma club and installed the new officers for 1945, as follows:

M. L. Stancil, president; John Q. A. Jeffreys, vice-president; Wilbur D. Perkins, secretary-treasurer, succeeding M. R. Wall, resigned; and the following board of directors:

Paul McMillan, Norvel Smith, B. C. Du-Boise, Roy Smith, and Dr. E. M. Blackman.

Lt. Governor McKethan was introduced by Past Lt. Governor J. Durward Creech of Smithfield.

President Stancil, who was elected vice-president for 1944, became president following the resignation of President Rudolph A. Howell who resigned early last fall to enter the armed services. Mr. Stancil was elected president of the club for 1945 in November, 1944.

The new officers will take up their official duties for 1945 this week.

An important matter of business to come before the club this week will be the selection of the most useful citizen of the club to the community in 1944, and award him the possession of the Silver Key award during 1945.

Kiwanian David S. Bell was awarded the cup in 1944 for his usefulness to the community during 1943.

Miss Mary Ann Boyd, student at Limestone College, Gaffney, S. C., sang three popular numbers, accompanied at the piano by her sister, Mrs. I. Q. Anthony, of Gaffney, which were greatly enjoyed. Miss Boyd and Mrs. Anthony are daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Boyd, who recently moved to our town. Mr. Boyd is superintendent of the Eastern Manufacturing Company of Selma.

A. T. Moore, a member of the Fayetteville club, accompanied Lt. Governor McKethan and was a special guest of the club.

Selma Couple In Army Of Uncle Sam

Durham, Dec. 27.—The Parrish family of Selma believes in husband-and-wife cooperation in war service. Both are in the Army and it is Private First Class Joseph D. Parrish and WAC Private First Class Dorothy V. Parrish in their respective organizations.

Pfc. Dorothy V. Parrish is stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, where she is a clerk typist in the War Department Personnel Center.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Price of Selma, she attended high school at Smithfield, worked in a Selma factory, and later attended business school in Durham.

She left business school to enter the Army at Durham on July 25, 1944. She took her basic training at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., and then was assigned to Camp Maxey, Texas; and from that station she was transferred to Fort Bliss late in October of 1944.

The fact that her husband had been overseas for about one and a half years was one of the reasons why she decided to enter the Woman's Corps.

While her husband is a soldier, the Selma girl chooses to wear a uniform. But when he is a civilian again, she plans to doff the trim khaki of the WAC and leave her war duties to plan meals and run a house for him.

New Assistant County Agent Is Named

C. W. Tarlton of Marshville in Union county, assumed the duties of assistant county farm agent in Johnston Monday, January 1. Mr. Tarlton succeeds Charlie Clark who resigned his position here to become farm agent in Onslow county.

Mr. Tarlton has spent 28 months in the U. S. Navy, having enlisted shortly after his graduation from State College in 1942. He served 22 months overseas, but on Dec. 13 he received a medical discharge. When he left the Navy he had attained the rank of electrician mate, second class.

Between the time of his graduation from college and his entrance into the Navy, he was employed as agricultural teacher at Wallburg in Davidson county.

Selma Boy Steps Up Output For the War

An Air Service Command Depot in England—When new battle tactics dictate last-minute changes in combat airplanes Sgt. Wade M. Johns of Selma, N. C. steps up his record-shattering output.

Bomb racks for fighter planes, armor plate for bombers, parts for propaganda bombs—these are only a few of the high-priority projects he and his fellow soldier-technicians help build in the metal manufacturing section of this Air Service Command modification depot.

He and his buddies were recently commended by their commanding general for their high speed production which helped spur the aerial offensive against Western Europe.

He is the son Mrs. J. D. Johns of Selma, N. C.

Before he joined the army in Nov. 1942 he was employed as a Ship-fitter by the Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Va.

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Smithfield Man Found Dead In His Bedroom

Funeral services were held at the graveside in Riverside cemetery in Smithfield Wednesday afternoon of last week for Ed J. Sasser, 67, an employe of the Farmers tobacco warehouse, who was found dead in his room at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Ogburn in Smithfield Tuesday evening of last week about eight o'clock.

The rites were conducted by the Rev. B. H. Houston of the Smithfield Methodist church.

Mr. and Mrs. Ogburn and children were away from home for Christmas and discovered Mr. Sasser was dead upon their return to their home. Mr. Sasser had not been seen since Saturday afternoon and it is thought he suffered a heart attack.

Mr. Sasser was a son of the late John W. and Patience Sasser of Boon Hill township. He had lived in Smithfield for the past 25 years. His wife died several years ago. He is survived by sixteen nieces and nephews.

NINETEEN FORTY-FIVE

The New Year is yours to make what you will of it. It opens up to you new responsibilities, new opportunities, and perhaps new sorrows.

To him who possesses vision, 1945 comes on the highest, the mightiest tide that has ever come flowing into our port of hope. There are those who will look mournfully into the face of the New Year. There are those who will say that the world is still in the midst of a terrifying dream. But they are the unfortunates without vision.

In our own hearts, each of us knows that the world could and should be a better place in which to live. We know that war has no place in a good world. But we know, too, that tyranny, injustice and hatred always lead to war. It is part of our job to see that those forces of evil are forever stamped out.

America is a mighty nation, and America is no more than a multiplication of our own community. Each of us must have the vision to live understandingly with our neighbors. We must not only be neighbors, we must be good neighbors. Then the insidious forces which lead to violence have no soil in which to grow. They are as seed cast upon the rock.

Our own community is proud of its past achievements. The past three years have taught us that we can do what we will in our own minds. The job we have done in the past gives us the courage and fortitude to face the future unafraid. We know that no problem is without a solution.

So it is with a spirit of genuine hope, a feeling of humility and a prayer of thanks that this newspaper wishes each of you

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!