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TORNADO STREAKS THRU JOHNSTON

A violent windstorm which swept through Johnston county late Monday afternoon tore the roof completely off one section of the Smithfield Bagging Company's factory at Wilson's Mills and disrupted telephone communications.

The bagging company's roof was blown against the Telephone lines along the Southern railroad tracks, cutting the lines in two and blocking train traffic for a brief period. Wilson's Mills residents were left without telephone service and the telephone company was still working Tuesday afternoon to restore service.

The storm in the Smithfield-Wilson's Mills area was not accompanied by much rain. A great cloud dust swept over the section however.

In lower Johnston county, the storm was accompanied by hail which was said to have done considerable damage to tobacco.

Selma Legion Sends Delegates To Meeting

Comrades B. A. Henry, C. B. Fulghum and E. G. Hobbs represented Selma Post 141 at the annual state convention of the American Legion held at the Hotel Sir Walter in Raleigh this week.

Comrade Henry advises that reports were heard from Major J. S. Pittman concerning activities of the veterans hospital and a resolution dealing with the question of peacetime conscription was introduced and acted upon. Members also favored a resolution opposing the release of conscientious objectors until after close of the war with the Japs.

The convention, streamlined in nature because of current conditions, restricted each Post to one voting delegate and elected Comrade Victor Johnson of Pittsboro, as commander of the North Carolina department. Upon nomination by the Selma delegate, Comrade Henry, post of district commander of the local district went to Comrade Oliver Westbrook of Garner Post 232.

Governor R. Gregg Cherry made the principal address, adhering to the streamlined policy in so doing.

Sgt. John W. Avery Receives Discharge

Staff-Sergeant John W. Avery, AUS, arrived home Friday after three years service in Uncle Sam's army spent in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, England and Germany. Sgt. Avery served two years overseas and was assigned to short tour of duty in this country and was then again sent to Europe.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Avery, Selma route 2, Sgt. Avery plans to remain with his parents for a visit and will then visit Mr. and Mrs. Zell Wallace, Smithfield route 2, parents of his wife, after which it is expected that he will be associated with his father in farming.

Sgt. Avery stated that he was looking forward to renewing his acquaintance with Barney Henry, Hunter Price, The Johnstonian and any number of his former friends.

Discharged under the Army's point system, the sergeant said that he had piled up almost enough points to release two men instead of one.

Sgt. Kirby Henry Back From Overseas

Sgt. Kirby Henry, nephew of Mayor and Mrs. B. A. Henry called them Tuesday from Fort Bragg and said he hoped to be home Wednesday or Thursday of this week. Sgt. Henry went overseas in the fall of 1942 and has just returned to the States after having participated in campaigns in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France, Belgium and the final defeat of Germany.

Back From Italy

Lt. Bill Hinton, who has been in Italy with the United States Air Force, is spending a thirty-day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Hinton.

First Curing Tobacco

Arthur Starling, Selma rt. 2, stated to the Johnstonian Wednesday that he planned to cure his first barn of tobacco today (Thursday).

With a 3 1-2 acre crop, Mr. Starling says that he has experienced no damage from plant disease or insects so far.

About 300 sticks comprise the first curing.

Home From Overseas



SGT. JOHN H. EVANS, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Evans, has arrived home after spending three and one half years overseas and will be honorably discharged in a few days.

He has been through four battles in the European theatre. Sgt. Evans was at one time reported missing in action and was a prisoner of the Germans. He has the Purple Heart, the Infantry Badge, four battle stars, Veterans of Foreign Wars ribbon, and the South American Medal.

Johnny says that he is very fortunate to be alive and very grateful to be back in the U. S. A. with his family and friends again.

He returned to the States with a large collection of souvenirs, the property of German soldiers, part of which is on display in the window of the Johnstonian-Sun.

Veterans To Address Bond Rally, Auction Benson Friday Night

Benson. — A war bond rally and auction sale, sponsored by the Benson Kiwanis Club and the Benson Woman's Club, will be held Friday evening, June 22, at 8:30 o'clock in the Benson High school auditorium.

An entertainment feature will be included in the bond sale program and prizes will be awarded to each purchaser of a bond. It is planned to have a band present to furnish music appropriate to the occasion. In addition to the band music there will be group singing of patriotic songs, among them the beloved God Bless America. Solos also will be sung by well known local artists.

Among featured speakers will be Lt. David Henry Parker, son of Attorney and Mrs. Ezra Parker of Benson. Lt. Parker, bombardier of the U. S. Army Air Forces, who has this month returned home after two years spent in a German prison camp, will recount some of his experiences before and after his internment, liberation, and his return to this "sweet land of liberty".

Another featured speaker will be Kyle Hunter Stephenson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kyle V. Stephenson of Benson. Kyle Hunter, is now on leave at his home here after witnessing many harrowing events in the Pacific war area aboard a U. S. destroyer which was engaged in many encounters with the Japanese fleet. Very recently Kyle Hunter, saw first hand the attack of Japanese suicide planes on our war vessels. His destroyer was the target for an attack by seven Jap suicide planes, six of the planes being destroyed before reaching the warship. When the seventh plane was successful in evading our defense against them it swooped directly down toward Seaman Stephenson's destroyer and crashed into the center side of the war vessel where it tore a tremendous hole in the ship. Due to the construction of the ship, however, the crew was able to bring it into port under its own power and repairs are now being done on the west coast. Hence, Seaman Stephenson's opportunity to spend a leave at home. In speaking of the attack Sunday before the Benson Methodist Sunday school Kyle Hunter said, "I never expected to see this place again."

Attorney Louis L. Levinson will be auctioneer at the bond sale at which local merchants will contribute many valuable prizes.

Residents of the community and surrounding area are invited to attend.

Soaking pans and dishes saves time, and cold water is recommended. Don't let iron utensils rust.

C. W. FULGHUM DIES SUDDENLY

Charles Wesley Fulghum, 63, was found dead in bed Tuesday morning at 7 o'clock. He died from natural causes during his sleep. Death was attributed to heart failure.

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock at the Edgerton Memorial Methodist Church here and were conducted by the Rev. George W. Blount, pastor. Burial took place in Sunset Memorial Park at Smithfield.

Surviving are one daughter, Mamie Fulghum of Selma; two sons, James A. Fulghum of Norfolk, Va., and Charles E. Fulghum, with the Army in Germany; two brothers, J. S. Fulghum of Raleigh and Jesse L. Fulghum of Selma.

Mr. Fulghum was a native of Wayne County. He was manager of an ice plant at Smithfield at the time of his death.

Turner Vinson Hopes To Smash Black Market

The addition of many enforcement agents to help smash completely any black market in Johnston County, was announced today by Turner Vinson, Chairman of the War Price and Rationing Board, as he called on housewives in Johnston to cooperate with OPA in eliminating existing threats to war-time rationing and war-time price control.

Mr. Vinson referred to the 15,347 housewives in the county served by the Local War Price and Rationing Board who buy the food products served on their home tables.

"If all housewives were on their toes when they go shopping there would be no chance of violation of price ceilings," he said.

Statistics show that there are over 15,347 women in the county who buy foods, and if every one of these women would absolutely refuse to buy anything above ceiling prices and would accept no rationed merchandise without giving up the required points, the problem of threatened inflation would be wiped out, he pointed out.

"Think of it," Mr. Vinson said, "women absolutely wrecking black markets, simply by letting them alone."

"Many women already do this . . . just as many stores scrupulously obey the laws and no criticism is leveled at these patriotic citizens who are trying their best to do the right thing. But the fact remains that we need those 15,437 workers to be militant, watchful, zealous on behalf of their country's welfare," he asserted.

The new list of ceiling prices on meats will be available at the Boards for housewives after June 15, he added. These lists will enable shoppers to know the ceiling price of each cut of meat they buy.

"From here on out, this business of inflation is going to be serious, and its prevention is so gigantic that OPA's limited enforcement staff cannot do the job alone. Therefore, I am calling on the housewives of Johnston County to join by reporting any violation of price or rationing regulations to the War Price and Rationing Board, Mr. Vinson urged.

Kiwanis Program 'Backwards' - It's New

Kiwanians in regular session last Thursday evening heard with calm the statement that the program would consist of an old-fashioned spelling bee, but a slight nervousness was noted when it was seen that the words were to be spelled backwards instead of in the conventional manner. During the course of the bee this condition became really noticeable as the fellows struggled with their "spelling" while those on the sidelines were plainly hilarious. Wilbur Perkins, program chairman, earned a good hand for his novel presentation. Kiwanian Paul McMillan will serve this week.

With vice-president John Jeffreys in the chair, club discussed plans for the divisional inter-club meeting scheduled for the near future; possibly August.

Meal was served by the Woman's club under supervision of Miss Margaret Etheredge.

Baptist Revival Will Close Sunday Evening

The revival services of the Selma Baptist Church will continue through Sunday evening. The remaining services this week will be this evening at eight o'clock, Friday morning at nine-thirty, and Friday evening at eight. The Sunday services will be at the regular hours of worship, eleven o'clock in the morning and eight in the evening.

The messages brought during the week by Dr. G. W. Davis have been inspirational and helpful. Others are welcomed for the remaining services.

Gas For Servicemen

Raleigh, June 28. — Servicemen returning from overseas on temporary duty orders for rehabilitation, recuperation and recovery will be eligible for furlough gasoline rations, according to OPA.

The serviceman may obtain his rations by applying to the local War Price and Rationing Board, presenting both his temporary duty orders and the mileage rationing record for the car he will be using, the announcement said.

Previously, all servicemen were required to present leave or furlough papers when applying for these gasoline rations, but those now being sent home for periods of about 30 days are not being issued such papers.

The amount of the ration remains the same, one gallon of gasoline for each day of the furlough, with a maximum of 30 gallons, OPA officials said.

Methodist Bible School To Begin Monday

The Annual Vacation Church School of the Methodist Church will begin promptly at 9 o'clock Monday morning, June 25. The school will continue for two weeks. The commencement will be held on Friday night, July 6.

The courses and instructors will be as follows: Beginners, Text Book "My Home and Family", instructors, Mrs. Ed Perry, Mrs. Willard Johnson, Jr., Mrs. Geo. W. Blount, Primaries, Text Book, "Friends at Home and In The Community", instructors, Miss Dorothy Jean Creech, Mrs. Frank Wood, Mrs. J. G. Salmon, Juniors Text Book, "Neighbors At Peace", instructors, Miss Helen Renfrow, Miss Mary Anne Boyd, Intermediates, Text Book, "Becoming A Person", instructors, Miss Anne Hood Hughes, Miss Alice DuBose, Pvt. Wilson Broadwell will assist with the handwork a part of the time.

Children of all denominations are welcome, and all are urged to be on hand promptly at nine o'clock Monday morning for registration and assignment to classes.

Lt. Joe D. Richardson Gets Bronze Star Medal

First Lieutenant Joe D. Richardson, Jr., son of Mrs. Pearl B. Richardson, of Selma, has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

The official citation reads as follows: "For distinguishing himself by meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States from February 15, 1945 to May 1, 1945, in Germany. On crossing the Roer and Rhine rivers, Lieutenant Richardson has performed his duties as Battalion Anti-Tank Platoon Leader in a highly commendable and exemplary manner. Despite difficult terrain and extreme weather conditions, he deployed his guns well forward to provide anti-tank protection for his Battalion. He has personally reconnoitered routes and supervised the emplacement of his guns. Coordinating with the bazooka teams of the front line companies despite enemy small arms, mortar and artillery fire. The outstanding devotion to duty and determination displayed by this officer merit the highest praise."

Lieutenant Richardson is a member of the 380th Infantry attached to the 83rd Division. Known as the Thunderbolt Division. He received his commission at Camp Hood, Texas.

Highway Department Has Project For Selma

Plans are underway by engineers of the state highway system for a new project centering around route 301 in the southern part of Selma, near Atkins Oil Company.

The time-worn "big ditch" will be laid with piping and closed and a new ditch will also be dug, given the same treatment and connected with the old drainage system. Results, officials stated, will be the complete drainage of the southern portion of town bringing about great improvement from the health and convenience viewpoints as related to the general public.

Cost of the project is estimated to be in the neighborhood of \$9,000 and work will begin in the immediate future, it has been learned here.

The war with Japan is not yet over. Support the boys over there; buy another bond in the Mighty 7th!

Black Market Dealer Is Caught; Given 8 Months

Makes Excellent Record



Raleigh, June 19. — A 33-year-old Benson man today faced an eight-month term in federal prison, imposed Monday by Judge Don Gilliam in federal court after the defendant had pleaded guilty to illegal possession of gas ration coupons.

Thad Coats not only was given a prison term but was ordered to pay a fine of \$2,500. Judge Gilliam, after listening to two hours of testimony, refused the pleas of defense counsel for a probationary sentence.

"I can't tell whether this man was a big black market operator or not, but all the evidence shows that he was in on the business to some extent," commented the federal jurist, who recently succeeded Judge I. M. Meekins as federal judge for the Eastern district of North Carolina.

Big Bank Deposits

Testimony was introduced by OPA Attorney Albert Corbett which showed Coats had made cash bank deposits running over \$4,000 just prior to his arrest last fall. In addition, it was admitted by both sides that Coats had \$3,800 in cash in his pockets when ATU Agent J. C. Halthcock took him into custody on a liquor charge. He was acquitted of this charge last March.

Halthcock testified that Coats bore a reputation as a dealer in gasoline and sugar ration coupons. The government agent's testimony was corroborated by Sgt. V. R. Mallard of the State Highway Patrol and by Police Officer O. R. Pearce of Dunn. Both gave Coats a bad reputation.

Coats had been indicted on three counts, but two of these were stricken out with consent of the government. He pleaded guilty to the remaining one, illegal possession of gas ration coupons. Agent Halthcock said Coats had in his pockets coupons representing 293 gallons of gasoline. Some of the stamps were valid and some were counterfeit. Several were identified as among those which were stolen last September from the Harnett OPA Board at Lillington.

Coats' Defense

Coats took the stand to swear that he had never dealt in the ration-coupon black market, and asserted that all the money he had on hand was cash "that I made by my hard work." Of the total cash found on his person when arrested, he said he had borrowed \$3,000 from an uncle. The uncle was not in court, he said in answer to a question by Judge Gilliam.

Questioned by Judge Gilliam about pencil notations which were found on the back of a card discovered in his pockets, Coats was very vague. He said he didn't remember what the figures represented, and said he could identify only two of some five names written on the card, though he admitted all the writing was his. OPA officials contended the notations represented Coats' black market dealing with various persons and they identified a telephone number as that of a black market dealer in Fayetteville.

Coats admitted he fled from the Dunn police station when placed under arrest. He said he did this because "I had never been in jail and didn't want to get locked up." He was caught by Agent Halthcock after a brief chase, but not before he had thrown away some of the coupons he had. These, too, were recovered.

Defense Lawyers Duncan C. Wilson and J. R. Barefoot contended that Coats was merely a young farmer trying to make an honest living, and urged the judge to put him on probation. Coats' stepmother, Mrs. Sallie Coats, took the stand to say that the defendant was supporting her six young children, left fatherless by the death last fall of Coats' father.

"I've never been more sincere," said Attorney Wilson, "when I tell this court that I believe this is a case for probation. This young man has never been in trouble, except for one liquor case, and has taken upon himself the burden of supporting his six younger brothers and sisters."

Testifying to Coats' good character were Policeman Sonny Clifton of Benson and Earl Creech and Lonnie Ennis, both of Benson. Policeman Clifton denied that his testimony was affected by the fact that Defense Attorney Barefoot is mayor of Benson.

Coats said the gas coupons involved in the illegal possession charge were given to him by a soldier he had befriended by riding him to Faison last fall. He said he took them for his own use, and never had any idea of selling them in the black market. All the money he banked, he said, came from profits from his two farms—on which he said he owes \$5,000—and on trading in livestock and used autos.

POPPY SALE TOTALS \$204.77

The local American Legion Auxiliary reports that the Auxiliaries in Selma, Pine Level, Kenly and Princeton sold \$204.77 worth of poppies on Poppy Day.

The committee was composed of Mesdames F. C. Price of Pine Level, F. M. Aycock of Princeton and B. A. Henry of Selma and Mayor Julius Corbett of Kenly.

Pvt. Heywood Younger is spending his furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Younger, of Selma.

Miss Annie Bailey C.