

# THE HYDE COUNTY HERALD

THE NEWS OF THE RICHEST AGRICULTURAL COUNTY IN THE FOREMOST HISTORICAL AND RECREATIONAL AREA OF NORTH CAROLINA

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## HYDE COUNTY DOCTOR SERVED ON BOMBED SHIP

Dr. Nathan Fitts Awarded Purple Heart Bar by Navy For Service While in Danger

Dr. Nathan F. Fitts of Swan Quarter sometime ago was awarded the Purple Heart Bar in recognition of his gallant services and injuries received in action while a member of the crew of the Liberty Ship S. S. Richard Olney, operated by the Marine Transport Lines.

Dr. Fitts, a native of Rocky Mount, who first entered the Army, was later discharged, because of toxic neuritis. He then "shipped out" on the transport and at the time of the action in which he received his wounds, the ship was doing shuttle work between main bases and Salerno in the Mediterranean.

While on one of these runs in the daytime, the Richard Olney was sighted by a German plane and attacked. She was about 15 miles off the coast of Cape Bon near Bizerte, however, and after being hit by bombs and later torpedoed by a German sub, the ship finally was beached and all hands on board, including about 400 soldiers, were rescued.

When the ship was torpedoed, said Dr. Fitts, three members of the crew who were in the engine room at the time were killed and about 30 injured.

The German submarine was "run down" a few days later by British naval units and captured.

Dr. Fitts was in coastwise service in 1941 and 1942. The letter informing him of the award was sent to him by W. N. Westerland, president of the Marine Transport Lines, and read as follows:

"Dear Dr. Fitts: "As operators of the vessel on which you suffered injury in northwest African waters on September 23, 1943, it is our privilege to present you with the Purple Heart Bar. This award is made on behalf of the United States Navy under direction of the President of the United States for injuries received in action against the enemy.

Commander F. J. Lowry, in charge of the amphibious forces in that area, has requested that we convey to you his heartiest congratulations for a job well done.

"This decoration is one that we hope you will wear with great pride in the knowledge that you have served your country so courageously in carrying on your duties faithfully in the face of great danger. It is an evidence that you have contributed to the combined effort of the men of the American Merchant Marine in their splendid exhibition of loyalty and steadfast allegiance to the noblest traditions of our great American heritage."

In an interview with Dr. Fitts we are able to give a rather interesting account of his experiences as follows:

"I entered the Merchant Marine twice in 1941. I made one trip in July and sustained a knee injury that kept me on the beach for several months. In February of 1942 I again sailed. We lost our first merchant ship on the U. S. coast Jan. 14, 1942. Every month after that the going got tougher and tougher. Having sailed in the Navy in the last war, it was my lot to go to Texas City, Texas on a tanker, and to tell the truth, I don't mind admitting that I was plenty scared. During the latter part of March and to the 21st of April of that trip, some 30 or more tankers went down just off our coast. We passed over miles and miles of great slicks of oil. It was a common occurrence to see so many poor tankers that got it. I was scared—coming back we were loaded with 105 thousand barrels of high octane gasoline. Every mile seemed to be 15 or 20 miles.

"On the morning of Feb. 15th we got five S.O.S. calls within a few minutes My cabin was close to the steering gear and all of a sudden things got very quiet. I got used to sleeping with the noise, and I presume the quietness caused me to awake. Anyhow, the "Gulf Bell," who were trailing us (she was a brand new tanker with a 16 man gun crew. We had not as much as an air rifle on the Pan Delaware) disobeyed intelligence orders and also the warning from our skipper, Captain Larson. She passed us an got it. I could tell by the wake from the propeller that our ship was circling very slowly. Our captain sent word to us to

## 283 POLIO CASES REPORTED IN N. C. BY HEALTH BOARD

Hyde and Dare Contribute Funds Toward Combatting Outbreak

Infantile paralysis cases in North Carolina since June 1 reached a total of 283 Wednesday, July 12, the State Board of Health reported. Most cases were in the Piedmont counties.

Seventy-eight of the State's 100 counties have made contributions toward combatting the polio outbreak, according to J. C. B. Ehringhaus, chairman of the North Carolina Polio Emergency Fund Committee. The total contributions amounted to \$33,737.85.

Dare county contributed \$33,622; Hyde, \$223.25; Tyrrel, \$247.72; and Beaufort, \$100. Contributions in most cases amounted to half of funds held by counties from the March of Dimes drive each January.

## J. M. LONG IS NEW PRESIDENT OF ROTARY CLUB

New officers of the Engelhard Rotary Club assumed office last Thursday evening at the regular weekly dinner meeting at the Watson Hotel. All are serving in their respective positions for the first time.

J. M. Long, building and electrical contractor, is the new president. He succeeds L. A. Dudley, Mr. Long is mayor of Engelhard and is active in community and civic affairs.

Other officers who are serving with Mr. Long are A. G. Silverthorne, traffic manager for the Engelhard Bus Company, vice president; N. W. Shelton, superintendent of Hyde schools, secretary-treasurer; and Carl E. Whitfield, state highway patrolman, sergeant-at-arms.

The new officers were elected for a term of one year.

Mr. Long announced at his first meeting that committee appointments would be made later and given at the next meeting.

## THE TYRRELL, AN AKA BOAT, LAUNCHED MONDAY

The Tyrrell, the first of a number of AKA's (American cargo ships, attack) to be named for North Carolina counties, slid down the ways of the North Carolina Shipbuilding Company Monday afternoon. Others including one named for Hyde county honor Tar Heel counties.

The first five AKA's were named for counties of other states. The Tyrrell was the first boat named for an N. C. county. The names of six other counties have been assigned by the Secretary of Navy. The counties are Alamance, Caswell, Duplin, Lenoir, New Hanover and Stokes.

In addition to the names given to vessels which will be built at the Wilmington shipbuilding firm other naval craft honor several Tar Heel counties. They are Hyde, Pitt, Carteret, Bladen, Chatham, Clay, Edgecombe, Granville, Guilford, Rockingham, Warren, Wayne and Yancey.

## NEWS OF OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM

**TRAINING IN MARYLAND**  
Latney Hooker, son of Mrs. Frank Swindell of Engelhard, who recently volunteered for naval service, is training at Bainbridge, Md. Hooker graduated from the Engelhard high school in 1943 and attended N. C. State College, Raleigh, last year.

**VISITS MOTHER**  
Bill Hardison, U. S. Navy, spent sometime visiting his mother, Mrs. Lee Pinkham, at Engelhard last week. Young Hardison recently returned from a trip overseas.

**THAW DANIELS, USCG VISITS AT WANHESE.**  
Thaw Daniels, USCG, who has been stationed in Mississippi, is home for a ten-day leave, and is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Major Daniels of Wanchese. His wife is also visiting them.

**Your War Bond Investment Is Your Investment In America . . .**

## Allied Wounded Flown From France



PLANES WHICH TAKE SUPPLIES to the Normandy battlefield airstrips return to Britain with battle casualties. This picture shows Corporal Lydia Alford, a nursing orderly of Britain's Women's Auxiliary Air Force, helping one of the wounded being loaded on a Douglas Dakota transport plane of the R.A.F. Her job will be to tend the wounded during the flight back.

## Around the Courthouse

**IN DURHAM**—N. W. Shelton, Superintendent of Schools, is in Durham attending a meeting of North Carolina city and county school superintendents. Mr. Shelton left Tuesday morning. The meeting began Wednesday and continued through Thursday.

Mr. Shelton will attend a meeting of the Regional Library Board in Washington Friday while on his return trip home. He is a member of the Hyde County Library Board.

**APPLICATION BLANKS**—Hyde County service men's wives who desire to apply for free maternity and infant care can get application blanks from the local health department or the county Red Cross chapter. Federal officials urge that those eligible for emergency maternity care apply at the beginning of pregnancy so that their health and that of the child can be better safeguarded.

Medical, nursing and hospital care for the service man's wife are provided during pregnancy, childbirth, and for six months after childbirth, and for the infant throughout its first year, all without cost to the service man or his family.

**NATIONAL ELECTION**—The Republican national convention which was recently held in Chicago, and the plans of the Democrats for their meeting in the same city next week has been a source of conversation around the courthouse for the past several days. Most of those with whom we have talked think it is certain that Mr. Roosevelt will be nominated for a fourth term.

Ex-sheriff S. O. Jones, who has shown himself pretty good at predicting county campaigns on some occasions in the past, says that Thomas E. Dewey, the Republican nominee, will make a good run in the county. He thinks that the people will be voting more against Mr. Roosevelt and a

## BIBLE SCHOOL BEGINS AT ENGELHARD MONDAY

A Vacation Bible school, under the sponsorship of the Engelhard Methodist and Christian churches will begin Monday, July 17. It will continue through Friday and will be held in the Christian Church. All of the children of Engelhard are invited to attend the classes which begin at 9 o'clock each morning. The school will be under the direction of the Rev. F. D. Davis, Methodist minister and the Rev. J. T. Brown, Christian minister.

## HYDE RED CROSS SECY ATTENDS KINSTON MEETING

Miss Kathleen Cooper attended a meeting of the Red Cross in Kinston this week. Miss Cooper is secretary of the Hyde County chapter.

The Fifth War Bond drive begins in June—remember.

## BOND SET \$500 FOR APPEARANCE SUPERIOR COURT

Hyde Negro To Be Tried In October On Charge of Trespassing at Night

Bennie Young, Middletown Negro employed at Manns Harbor, charged with trespassing at night, was bound over to the October term of Hyde County Superior Court by Judge E. S. Fisher in Hyde Recorder's Court Monday. Bond was set at \$500.

Young was charged with attempting to enter the home of Mrs. Nancy Berry, near Engelhard, on Saturday night, June 3. Mrs. Lizzie Berry, one of the five women in the house when the attempted entry was made, identified Young in court as the person she saw at the scene of the crime. The Negro denied the charges through his attorney, Clay Carter of Washington.

Other cases tried at the court session Monday were as follows: Preston Watson, Belhaven, drunk on highway and damaging jail, pleaded guilty, sentenced to six months on the roads suspended upon payment of \$25 fine, cost and repairs to jail.

Matthew Knight, Ponzer, failing to stop automobile at regulation stop sign, pleaded guilty, sentenced to 30 days on the roads suspended upon payment of cost.

Ed Fonville, Negro, Washington, violating speed law, capias and continued.

Edward Whitaker, Negro, Swan Quarter, giving check without having sufficient funds, capias and continued.

Elmo Moore, Negro, Engelhard, operating motor vehicle on public highway in careless and reckless manner, pleaded guilty, sentenced to six months on the roads suspended upon payment of \$35 fine and costs, and provided that he doesn't drive an automobile until he gets permit.

John Fulford, Negro, Engelhard, being drunk on public highway, pleaded guilty, sentenced to 30 days on roads, suspended upon payment of costs.

Rev. Sheddick Winstead, Negro, Norfolk, driving with improper license on automobile and taking license belonging to Albert Whitaker and using it, pleaded guilty, sentenced to 30 days on the roads suspended upon payment of \$20 fine and cost.

## SUMMER GARDENS NEEDED SPRING OUTPUT SMALL

Hyde County families are urged to begin now and plant a summer garden. The farm office says that unless such a step is carried out many pantry shelves will be empty this winter.

The Spring gardens produce very little because of the dry weather. Few families were able to can any vegetables. Most people generally do much canning out of their spring gardens.

Farm Agent J. P. Woodard says that among other things, string beans, bunch butter beans, collards, any root crops, beets and carrots can be planted now. He said that special emphasis should be put on planting crops for canning.

Buy War Bonds and Stamps.

## MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF OCRACOCKE WOMAN LAST WEEK STILL UNSOLVED

Mrs. L. C. Godfrey, Cafe Operator, Found Dead In Car on Outskirts of Morehead City After Mysterious Disappearance; Coroner James of Carteret County Had Made No Statement Through Tuesday

## RALLIES BOOST BOND SALES BUT QUOTA NOT MET

Fairfield and Ponzer Rallies Add More Than \$6,500 To Total Sold

Fifth War Loan sales in Hyde county passed the \$50,000 mark through Saturday, \$26,000 below the goal. Sales through the month of July will be counted in the quota, however, and this will boost the amount some although little hope of going over the top is held by officials.

Two rallies, one at Fairfield the sales more than \$6,000 last and the other at Ponzer, boosted week. Sales at the six rallies held in the county passed the \$26,000 mark and thus accounted for more than half of the sales in the drive to date.

Fairfield held its rally Thursday night, July 6. Bonds and stamps sold amounted to \$4,300.

Music was furnished by members of the high school band and by the Fairfield quartette. Recitations were given by Edward O'Neal and William Doughtie. Auctioneers were P. C. Simmons, P. E. Swindell and R. F. Bayes.

The committee in charge of the publicity, program and auction were Mrs. J. L. Simmons, Mrs. C. M. Swindell, Mrs. G. R. Cuthrell, Miss Margie Jones, R. F. Baynes and P. E. Swindell.

The Ponzer community held its rally Friday night, July 7, in the community building. Sales amounted to \$2,183.

The Home Demonstration Club sold \$14.10 worth of ice cream at the meeting. The money goes into the club treasury.

Those in charge of the Ponzer rally were Mrs. E. J. Clayton, Mrs. Denneth Dunbar, Mrs. Geo. Squires and Mrs. Ben Harris. Robert E. Tunnell of Swan Quarter was the auctioneer.

## ROSE BAY HOME CLUB PLANS FISH FRY IN AUGUST

The Rose Bay Home Demonstration club held its regular monthly meeting last Friday afternoon, July 7th, at the home of Mrs. Sim Brickhouse. Plans were made for a fish fry at the regular August meeting.

The Rose Bay club has made it a custom to have a picnic at the August meeting each year. Next month, however, the members will go to Bells Island for a fish fry rather than their annual picnic outing.

The meeting Friday was opened by singing "Is Everybody Happy." The devotion was by Mrs. Roland Dunbar. Contributions of \$70 were made to buy War Stamps for the club album. Miss Iberia Roach, county home agent, gave an interesting talk.

## HYDE NEGROES LEAVE FOR INDUCTION MONDAY

Eight Hyde County Negroes left Swan Quarter Monday morning for Fort Bragg to be inducted into the armed forces. They were Willie Satterthwaite, William Edward Mann, Wallace Gibbs and Weldon Gibbs, Scranton; Hubert J. Whitaker, Swan Quarter; Tommie Lee Bryant, Engelhard; Osler W. Gibbs, Middletown; and Kennie Shelton, Lake Landing.

## M. A. MATTHEWS ATTENDS N. C. BANKERS MEETING

M. A. Matthews, cashier of the Engelhard Banking & Trust Company is in Chapel Hill this week attending the North Carolina Bankers' Conference at the University.

## RETURNS TO CAMP

Pvt. Guy Gibbs, U. S. Army, who spent several days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Huron Gibbs of Middletown, left Wednesday to return to duty at Fort Faustin, Texas.

Carteret County officials investigating the death of Mrs. L. C. Godfrey, Ocracoke cafe operator, who mysteriously disappeared following her arrival in Morehead City from Wilmington last Thursday, had no statement to make regarding the case Tuesday. Sheriff Sherman Holland said that there was little evidence of foul play.

Mrs. Godfrey's body was discovered Monday morning by members of the Morehead City police. They had been notified Thursday by her husband who lives in Wilmington that she had been missing.

Mrs. Godfrey was reported en route to Ocracoke from Wilmington, accompanied by Ita Riggs Smith of Atlantic. They picked up a serviceman, Richard Matthew Coster of Toledo, Ohio, stationed at Atlantic, en route and stopped to shop in Morehead City. Miss Smith left Mrs. Godfrey in order to fill an appointment and was unable to find her at the appointed place and hour.

Morehead City police were notified of her disappearance Thursday night by her husband and her body was found in a car Monday morning on the outskirts of the city off the New Bern highway by a member of the Morehead City police as he went about his rounds.

The woman's clothing was not torn and there were only slight bruises on her body. Officers said that there was a possibility of gagging.

The body remained in a Morehead City funeral home through Monday while the Carteret County coroner, sheriff and Morehead police investigated the case. The provost marshal and his assistant from Cherry Point studied the records. No date had been set Tuesday for the testimony of Miss Smith and Coster.

Funeral services for the 41 year old cafe operator were conducted Wednesday from the Yopp Funeral Home in Wilmington with the Rev. C. D. Barelliff officiating.

Interment was in Oakdale Cemetery, Wilmington.

## CIVIL SERVICE WORKERS NEEDED AT FORT BRAGG

Henry R. Rose, Senior Recruiting Representative of the United States Civil Service Commission, announced today the great need for Watch and Instrument Repairmen, Armament Machinists and Repairmen, and Auto Mechanics for employment at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

The civilian employees of Fort Bragg are proud in knowing that they have played an important part in the successful invasion of Western Europe. Without the thousands of tanks and other motorized equipment that were prepared at Fort Bragg for overseas shipment, the invasion could never have been started. The successful beginning of the invasion has not diminished the demand on Fort Bragg for the implements of war.

## RAINS STILL BADLY NEEDED ON COAST FARMS

More rains are needed on coastal farms, and crops are burning up or maturing too early. The dry spell has continued all the week, and in Dare County there had been no rains up to Friday save a scattering shower now and then which did little good.

Gardens on Roanoke Island and vicinity which started out with the greatest promise in years had proved a complete failure, there being mighty few exceptions to the rule.

## HIS NAME WAS . . . . .



An Army doctor with the Fifth Army in Italy looks at the dug tags of a dead American soldier so that his beloved back home may know that he gave his life for his country. All your country is asking you to do is to give your dollars to back up the men who are fighting for you by buying War Bonds.