WAR BRINGS MANY CHANGES TO PEOPLE OF FLORIDA TOWN

Milton's Population Is Traditionally Democratic but New Dealers and Others Have Split; Taxes Chief Issue.

By BARROW LYONS

(EDITOR'S NOTE—This is one of a series of articles written for this paper by Barrow Lyons, staff correspondent of Western Newspaper Union. He has just completed an extended trip through the nation and in these reports gives his first-hand impressions of what rural America is thinking as we enter the third year of war and the first weeks of a presidential election year. Any opinions expressed are the writer's and not necessarily those of this newspaper.)

MILTON, FLORIDA.—About 27 miles northeast of Pensacola, Florida, is this neat little town of Milton, the county seat of Santa Rosa county. The 1940 census counted 1,840 inhabitants. The population has about doubled since then because the navy has ringed the village with flying fields auxiliary to the great Pensacola pilot training center.

Much of the new population of Milton is transient, remaining only for construction work. But many civilian workers at the airfields have rented houses or rooms for the duration. Permanent residents have taken many as boarders in the interest of winning the war.

Despite this increase in size and importance, no one expects Milton soon to regain its erstwhile glory as the principal port through which most of southeast Alabama once shipped its cotton and timber to the world and received supplies. Those were the days when sailing ships slid up the Blackwater river from the Gulf of Mexico to pick up the cotton bales piled three miles along the river at Milton awaiting shipment. The ships came also to get pine lumber. Old inhabitants can remember timbers two feet square and a hundred feet long hewn from the giants that once stood along the river. Ox teams carted away into the interior supplies brought for Alabama farms.

But the sailing vessels long since have disappeared, and the cotton goes by rail elsewhere, and the mighty pine forests have been cut down, and only three years ago, the big sawmill of the Bagdad Land and Lumber company sawed its last log, while the newsreel cameramen ground out "finis."

Even before the Bagdad mill ended its long usefulness, many of the more ambitious young men of the county began to drift from Milton to places that were growing. With the exception of the merchant-banker-professional group left in Milton, those who remained were, on the whole, the older people.

During the depression, a very large part of the inhabitants of Santa Rosa county were on relief. One man placed the proportion at 75 per cent.

Dairy Farming Is Gaining Headway

In the northern part of the county, there is fairly rich farming land. Cotton is raised; also beef cattle, peanuts, hogs, corn, and cane syrup. Government authorities have urged the farmers to go in for dairy farming, and that is beginning to gain headway. Most of them are traditionally Democrats.

But in recent years, a sharp split has come about in the kind of Democrats they are. Those who have made money in business or professional work, are as violently anti-

Left, S. D. Stewart, Milton, Fla., town clerk; right, J. J. Wilson, editor Milton Gazette.

New Deal Democrats as can be found anywhere. Apparently, it is paying large taxes that galls them most. The city of Milton was an incorporated town before Florida was a state. It doesn't levy very heavy taxes. Occupational licenses, liquor licenses, and a moderate personal property tax—now 21 mills—has paid the cost of local government.

There is now a sewer rental tax because of the $43,000 sewer project which the Public Works administration made possible in the early New Deal days. So it is natural that those who are profiting from the huge expenditures of the federal government should rebel against the tremendous income taxes that are recovering some of those expenditures.

A large number of Milton folk, and many in the county, are more likely to be on the other side of the

federal operating statement. A considerable proportion cannot read or write. At present, about 1,600 persons in the county have received collectively $117,250 a year in welfare money in recent years. In September there were 621 who received a total of $9,771 in old age assistance, 45 who received aid to the blind, and 49 families with 110 children who were recipients of aid to dependent children. The federal government and state share 50-50 in this distribution of financial aid.

Yet a great many of the poor folk in and around Milton take so little interest in political issues that they are ready to sell their votes for a small sum around election time, according to observers who have had ample opportunity to know what goes on. Perhaps, if they thought the New Deal really were threatened, they might come to its rescue; but as it is, they can hardly be called New Deal liberals.

War Eases Criticism Of Tax Burden

S. D. Stewart, Milton town clerk, summed up the Milton attitude thus:

"If it wasn't for the war, most of the people would be against the taxing problem. The higher taxes you get, the more you find against it. Personally, I'm an administration man. I think the New Deal has done a good thing with the banking law. I don't mean their regulation of Wall Street; I don't know anything about that. Pensions to the blind and guaranteeing the poor people up to a certain amount is good.

"Lots of people around here now think that with all the help they are giving to the poor, the government is trying to get control of politics—centralized power—and they don't like that. But most of the kicks you hear are because of income taxes and other kinds of taxes."

The most outspoken New Dealer in Milton is Joseph J. Wilson, editor of the Milton Gazette. He recently sold his interest in the paper and intends to move further west.

"There is a small group of old timers here, who are pretty prosperous. They are strongly Democratic but they would like to continue to pay people $1 a day and work them 12 hours. They never miss a chance to call the President the worst possible names.

"On the other hand, are the people who remained after 125 years of sawmilling faded out. Most of the skilled workers have gone elsewhere. Those who earned 15 cents an hour remained because they couldn't get away. Illiteracy is appalling among the older people, but the younger people are learning.

"I think congress is making the worst ass of itself. It appears to have taken the attitude that no matter what Roosevelt wants, it is going to repudiate it. If they don't compromise on the food subsidy plan, prices will get out of hand, and the farmer is going to be the chief sufferer when the bubble bursts."

As Milton, Florida, Views It . . .

Around Milton farmers and business men who have lived longest in the town, are chiefly descendants of English people. There are few other than Anglo-Saxon names on the registration rolls. Most of them are traditionally Democrats.

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J. J. Wilson has urged the business men of Milton to form a chamber of commerce in order that the federal authorities may have a central group to deal with in working out relations with the town made necessary by the new airfields which surround it. Such a chamber also would bring in new industries and build up the town's facilities for vacationers. A preliminary organization fund of $2,700 was raised, mostly from contractors on government work.

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List Of Tax Delinquents As Of Jan. 1, 1944

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 453, Section 156D Acts of 1943, the Treasurer of Kent County, Maryland, hereby publishes a list of all delinquents by districts, alphabetically, showing the amount for each tax payer is in arrears as of January 1, 1944.

To the following amounts, and there will be added to each bill the interest, fees and costs thereof;

1ST DISTRICT

Martha H. Budd	3.98
N. S. Bramble	11.69
Robert Burns	3.60
William F. Batchelor	6.00
Ellen Bordley	2.12
Charles Brown	2.66
Upston Brown	2.32
Daniel Burgett	3.98
Perry I. Brown	2.85
Allen Chance	44.09
Bessie M. Conner	1.80
William H. Cooper, Jr.	2.40
Robert Crew	9.43
William Dudley	3.98
Rev. O. P. Dickerson, Agt.	1.33
Calvin H. Everrett	3.60
Oden K. Fogelson	1.20
Rodney Ford	5.78
John H. M. Garner and E. M. Holdes	9.29
Oliva F. Gayton	19.25
Howard Hines	1.33
John H. Hines	2.40
Dr. Emerson Houck	7.33
Dennid Noland Hackett	7.84
James Harris	1.33
John Harris	1.33
Everett Johnson	15.87
John Jeff	3.32
Thomas Johnson	1.59
Walter H. & Cora V. Jones	1.80
Russell Kelly	6.00
Romie King	13.75
Leonard L. Little	6.0
Woodrow Loller	4.8
Gertrude Leach	11.03
Elizabeth D. Leager	41.42
Mary F. Massey	3.65
John T. Manning	12.28
Emory McKenney	2.66
C. E. McWilliams	4.20
George M. Newcomb	20.32
John H. O'Neal	28.29
Horace Otwell	2.40
Joseph W. Peacock	.66
A. Raymond Prettyman	221.64
Emma Price	143.04
John Pardee	1.80
James Pippin	3.60
William Pippin	15.96
Wm. F. Palmatory	18.92
Mary A. Pierce	14.93
Raymond Ringgold	1.20
Jesse Ringgold	3.32
Hattie Runner, Webster Law	6.64
Herman Schultz and wife	27.63
Mary Scott	2.79
Carl Starkey	5.38
Noah Seney	1.99
Wm. Seney	4.65
Joseph Toth	2.96
Earl B. Teat	1.20
Thomas Clyde Taylor	3.00
Harry Wallace	6.00

2nd DISTRICT

Benjamin F. Armiger, Harry and Edith Pickette	14.60
George Baldwin	23.23
Jacob V. S. and Maude L. Bishop	2.66
Edward and Hannah Boyer	5.31
Charles L. Brown	1.33
Herschel Carroll	12.42
L. Hodge and Rena W. Coleman	6.64
Wm. C. Dempsey	67.85
John Dent	2.66
Newell B. Everett	23.18
James H. and Hallie W. Earl	4.51
Randolph Garner	4.18
Silver J. Gsell	31.41
Joseph Gsell	42.69
Raymond D. Gosman	17.73
J. H. George	2.40
F. B. Harper	1.80
Mrs. Lavinia B. Harper	1.20
John Jones	6.97
Enoch and Kitty L. Knox	9.17
William W. Long	1.59
Thomas Mann	1.20
John J. Malloy	14.55
John H. and Elizabeth A. McKenney	3.89
Isiah Oakley	3.85
Lewis Oakley	3.32
B. F. Potts	1.20
Floyd Ransom	2.40
Thomas S. Silcox	120.54
Archie Stubbs	13.61
William F. Stewart and Margaret V. Stewart	13.41
Stewart L. Tubman	27.62
Joseph W. Winter and wife	27.55
Clarence E. Wallace	18.46
Edgar E. and Evelyn D. Walls	38.44
William H. Wessell	17.60
Dr. W. G. Whonseidler	4.80
Walter Willis	13.55
Harry Willis	17.87
Nichlas V. Walters	7.64

3rd DISTRICT

James Brooks	8.63
Edgar V. Byrnes	17.66
William L. Clark and wife	30.08
Harrison L. Cornelius	94.99
Harry C. Cacy	10.69
R. Newton Ellis	2.40
Edward E. Fowler	14.41
Mrs. Catherine R. Groves	3.60
Charles E. Hurd and wife	3.60
John L. Hynson	1.99
Abe Hynson and wife	7.63
Clarence E. Hurd	12.61
Reuben Jamar, Jr.	2.40
James G. Mench	19.92
Willard Pinder Estate	19.00
Louis H. Porter	5.19
Barrett Smith	15.87
William J. Savage	6.97
Joshua Stoutt	9.30
Pleasant Stoutt and wife	10.29
Albert P. and Helen L. Williams	2.40
Charles and Ida Willis	3.00
Benjamin C. Williams	15.22

4th DISTRICT

Jacob F. Allen	2.40
James R. Belote	6.00
Geo. W. and Esther H. Baldwin	161.51
John W. Barroll	7.90
Alonza M. Carmichael	12.31
Mrs. Clara V. and Elsie M. Crew	2.40
Edward Collins	1.80
Raymond W. Gosman	1.80
Wilbur Golt	2.40
James D. Gale	1.80
Security Finance Corporation of Maryland	148.00
Grover Hubbard and wife	18.33
John H. Hosch	1.20
Hill's Jewelry Store	37.78
Leo Hicks	2.40
Thomas D. Hickman	2.40
Charles J. Hickman	1.20
Benj. Boyer Hessey	1.80
Edward Henderson	2.40
Wm. Webster Hadaway	1.80
Walter S. and Margaret Hickman	5.31
Mary Jenkins	8.30
Willard Kinsey	1.80
Medford P. Keyser and wife	1.80
George E. Kellas	10.49
George L. Latham	2.40
Sarah E. Murray	5.64
John and Clara Mathews	5.31
W. Raymond Moody and Mary A. Moody	38.97
Emerson Moore	2.40
Wilbur Mench	1.80
Ralph C. Milligan	4.05
Wallis M. Maslin	18.53
Henry Porter	4.72
Lloyd W. Porter and wife	2.40
Milton Pinder	1.80
Bradford J. Schauber	205.50
W. J. Stenger	4.80
Mrs. Edmond G. Soli	2.40
Harry J. Short	3.60
John R. Shenton	2.40
Wm. J. Savage	17.87
Perry Tilghman, Amy Candy	2.79
Sarah L. Thawley	1.20
Jesse Webb	1.80
Wm. G. B. Warren	1.33
Albert Wiggins	1.20
Joseph Vineyard	3.60

5th DISTRICT

Joseph H. Ashley and wife	2.53
George P. Ashley and Jessie	5.52
Daniel M. Butler	4.78
Catherine Butler	5.31
John W. Bentley	4.19
George Banks	5.97
John E. Boulter	14.81
Willard E. and Nettie V. Brady	7.17
Samuel B. Collyer	4.65
Charles W. and Margaret A. Crouch	58.28
James R. Crouch	9.09
William F. Downey	4.52
Harold O. Donnelly	1.53
Samuel W. Elbourn	3.65
Elijah W. and Virginia H. Elbourn	7.30
Mrs. Norman Garman	1.20
Melvin L. Glenn	5.85
Laurence Gardner	1.33
John T. Graves	10.29
Tilghman Hubbard	1.86
Charles L. Hynson	17.99
Joseph B. Hynson, Jr.	3.98
Laura V. Joiner	11.82
Rosalie C. Jones	1.80
Mary E. Kellar, Larry Porter	3.72
Julia B. Kennard	1.53
J. Alston Long	2.40
William G. Leppo	1.20
William Mercer	27.36
William & Elizabeth Mercer	2.59
Nelson and Wharton	5.97
Raymond Price	2.66
Henry Morris Jr. and Mary L. Paschall	111.80
Cecilia Raines	17.26
Gerhard and Mary E. Sontag	27.82
Clarence W. and Catherine Sisco	4.65
Henry Merle & Macie Taylor	1.33
Stanley Vansant	2.66
J. T. Warner	18.59
J. Leroy Warner	3.00
Daisy Watson	1.20
Fred Williams	4.65
Samuel C. Whaland	8.96

6th DISTRICT

Charles Atsales	1.79
Edward C. Bechard	1.59
Lemuel Cann	7.17
Jacob H. Cooper	1.33
Mary Carter	1.60
Marion & Margaret E. Crew	12.58
Wm. E. Clark	5.45
Charles H. Craig	3.98
Wm. J. French	5.18
John N. Foreman and wife	22.84
Thomas A. Goeller	4.05
Sara A. Erdman and Mary L. Hamilton	7.97
Anthony and Catherine Hageman	1.59
Frank and Amelia W. Janson	2.39
Lula Johnson	1.80
Raymond Jones and wife	9.00
Robert Kelly	1.80
Fred W. Kolb	3.72
Edward & Elizabeth Kinsey	15.54
James F. Lambdin	3.19
Alonza and Sidney Leager	13.35
George Lomax	1.87
Anna G. Nelson	1.59
William Nicholson	2.66
Charles F. and Gertrude E. Norman	29.21
Harry E. Perry	10.49
John Pierce Heirs	1.33
John A. Redding and wife	18.52
Avrum K. Rifman and Charles Gorfine	8.76
Mary Ethel Stafford	5.35
Avon Spriggs	12.09
Stine Amusement Company	79.65
Clyde E. Sparks and wife	19.32
John W. Scott	1.50
Harry Sirkis	4.78
Wm. T. and Alice E. Schaffer	3.39
Ida Wallace	1.99
Jefferson Wilson	4.65
George Wilson	5.31

7th DISTRICT

C. C. Brown, Jr.	14.93
Harvey S. Brown	2.40
Casper Brown	5.72
George Comegys	5.18
William M. Crowding	4.52
Wm. Maxwell and Muriel W. Crowding	35.84
Paul Fletcher	16.73
Thomas E. Harris	1.20
Otha Johnson	1.20
J. Douglas Johnson	1.20
Carlton Johnson	2.40
David and Susie Johnson	2.60
Marion S. Parsons	11.75
Peoples Bank	1.00
Henry Merchant	3.72
David A. Miller	1.33
John T. and Elizabeth Mason	13.52
Anton Matysek	18.12
Walter F. Starr	17.46
George W. Smith	8.71
John P. Vansant and Wife	2.40

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