

Umstead Outlines Program In Talk At Raleigh Today

New Chief Sounds Progressive Note In His Inaugural Address

William B. Umstead of Durham, the new Governor of North Carolina, presented a broad and comprehensive program for the consideration of the General Assembly and the people of North Carolina in his inaugural address here today.

Speaking at formal ceremonies in Memorial Auditorium, Umstead told the legislators that "this is an hour of great responsibilities for you and for me. I have complete confidence in your patriotic devotion to North Carolina. Ahead of us there are new and unpredictable problems. Let us not be afraid. Let us meet with a courage that is characteristic of our people the uncertainties of a swiftly moving future."

The new chief executive made a number of important recommendations, with major emphasis going to public education, roads, highway safety, agriculture, conservation and development, treatment and care for mentally ill, labor, prison and paroles changes, liquor referendum, and taxes.

He recommended a 10 per cent salary increase for public school teachers and other state employees, retroactive to July 1, 1952, and asked that as much increase in the salaries of teachers be made during the next biennium as can be provided within available revenues.

The present school construction program is not meeting the needs of a rapidly increasing school population, the Governor asserted, and he asked the General Assembly to submit a bond issue to the people for funds "to provide the necessary aid to counties for the construction of school facilities for all our children."

He also called for further reduction of the teacher load, the safest school bus transportation possible, improved vocational training programs, and a new study of requirements for elementary teachers. These requirements have been said to be so rigorous that they deter young people from seeking to become elementary teachers, where a serious shortage of trained personnel now exists.

Umstead spotlighted the need for better treatment and care of mentally ill patients in state institutions, describing the need so urgent that it can be met adequately only by the passage of a state bond issue.

"We call the institution at Kingston the Caswell Training School," he said. "It is and has been a detention home for feeble-minded children who grow into feeble-

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Injured In Truck Wreck Last Night

Robert Barnhill, Robersonville business man, suffered chest injuries and shock when his Dodge pick-up truck went out of control and turned over in a curve on the Gold Point-Hassell highway last evening about 7:00 o'clock. The extent of his injuries could not be learned immediately. Damage to the truck was estimated at \$300 by Cpl. M. C. Byrum who made the investigation.

No one was injured and little damage resulted when two vehicles were in collision at the county home driveway on Highway 64 about 5:45 o'clock yesterday afternoon. James Everett, Jr., was making a left turn into the county home in a 1937 pick-up truck just as Robert O. Barfield, of Merry Hill, started to pass in his 1951 Chevrolet. Property damage was estimated at \$50 to the car and \$10 to the truck, according to a report released following an investigation by Cpl. M. C. Byrum of the highway patrol.

W. I. Skinner Named 1953 Senior Warden

W. I. Skinner was elected senior warden of the Church of the Advent at the January meeting of the vestry here, and Richard H. Smith was named junior warden. Milton James is secretary for 1953 and James Cooke is treasurer.

Dime Store Enlarging Its Building On Main Street

Leasing the entire property, the side entrance is to be changed. An addition, to join the recently completed Woolard Furniture Store annex is to be built. Space not used for storage on the first floor is to be converted and added to the regular sales department. Storage will be provided on the second floor along with rest rooms and store offices.

It is planned to start the expansion-modernization work about the first of next month. Plans for the project are said to be about completed, but no cost estimates have been made known.

The store, owned by N. C. Green and G. H. Harrison, is one of the largest here at the present time.

TAX LISTING

Tax listing in the local township is going forward rapidly. List-taker C. M. Cobb stating this morning that more than 300 property owners had already listed their holdings. Although he could give no definite figures, the list-taker said he believed the list values were more than holding their own, that possibly there would be some gain.

The lister, substituting for Mr. O. S. Anderson who continues ill at his home in the Tar Heel apartments, is maintaining headquarters in the town hall treasurer's office. The convenience of the new location is believed to have speeded up the listing work.

Farm Families In This Country Are Very Much Alike

Habits and Customs And Likes Vary Little, Survey Shows

More than half of the farm families in all sections of the country except the Northeast prefer a one-story house with a basement and two porches. This preference is made clear in a report based on rural housing surveys just issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. In general, American farm families are more alike than different in the kind of home they want.

The report compiles results from the Northeast, Southern, North Central, and Western areas of the nation surveyed by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics in Cooperation with 34 State agricultural experiment stations. Homemakers of about 4,000 farm operator families in 42 states were interviewed about household activities and housing preferences. The statistics show which housing features are likely to suit farm families best.

In all regions, most families who prefer a house more than one story high want a bathroom and at least one bedroom on the first floor. Bedrooms also rank as first choice in rooms to be added when and if expansion of present quarters can be started.

A separate dining room, plus eating space in the kitchen, is most universally desired. Seating

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Cars Damaged In Street Accident

No one was injured but considerable damage resulted when two cars crashed at the intersection of Hassell and Academy Streets here yesterday morning at 10:30 o'clock.

Mrs. J. G. Staton was driving south on Hassell Street in a Cadillac, and Ernest Carroway was driving his Dodge east on Academy. A fender was damaged and a headlight broken on the Cadillac and the side, including the doors on the Carroway car were badly battered.

No estimate on the damage could be had but the loss will likely run up to several hundred dollars, according to Officer Bill Haislip who made the investigation. An agreement was reached between the parties, the officer said.

Piano Marathon Nets \$166 Here For Polio Fund

Jerry Ball "Stumped" On Only Seven Tunes Last Tuesday

Jerry Ball, noted pianist, raised \$166.30 for the March of Dimes during his marathon play here last Tuesday. While the net did not come up to expectations, the income was about average for towns this size.

Unable to play seven tunes selected by the patrons, Mr. Ball contributed \$7 from his own pocket to the fund after offering his services free to the committee in this county, Chairman W. M. Baker explained.

Seating himself at the piano on the porch of Attorney H. G. Horton's office, Mr. Ball began his marathon play at 10:30 o'clock Tuesday morning and continued at his post until that evening, taking a few minutes out to get a bit to eat.

He played more than 150 tunes, all without music. Mr. Ball played under a distinct handicap, but he came through all right. His son was injured in an automobile accident out in Arizona, and Mr. Ball left here for Norfolk where he boarded a plane to go to his son.

The seven popular tunes that stumped Mr. Ball were "Trying," "Razz-ma-tazz," "My Devotion," "Happy Christmas, Little Friend," "I Think I'll Have To Change My Plans" and "Kentucky Waltz". To help bolster the fund, Roberson's Esso Servicenter, corner of Main and Haughton Streets, contributed one cent for every gallon of gasoline he sold during the day.

The polio fund drive is rapidly gaining momentum in the county, but Co-Chairmen W. M. Baker and L. B. Wynne and R. M. Edwards, chairman of the Negro division for the drive, point out that 100 percent cooperation will be needed to reach the \$5,984.00 goal in the county.

So far every polio case in this county has been financed by the March of Dimes fund. Once the fund was depleted and the National Association came to the rescue, rendering every aid possible.

The disease is advancing up the ladder, claiming victims in the older-age brackets each year

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Jaycees Sponsor Playground Area

Williamston's Jaycees voted at their meeting Friday night to sponsor the erection of playground area in cooperation with the town of Williamston. The recreation site is located behind the American Legion Hut on Watts Street.

A committee of Jaycees will be appointed this month to survey the grounds for an estimate of the work necessary to put it into use.

Edgar Gurganus, chairman of the Jaycee Christmas projects, lauded club members for participation in the party for underprivileged children.

Frank Weaver led the group in a song and Exum Ward gave the invocation.

Tobacco Farmers To Hold School In The Courthouse

Although the special school for farmers was poorly attended in this week, tobacco growers are expected to pack the courthouse next Monday night at 7:30 o'clock when specialists from State College discuss tobacco. R. R. Bennett and H. H. Nau, recognized authorities on tobacco, will lead the discussions which will center around nematode control, plant bed treatment and management, methyl bromide variety, fertilization, sucker control, insect control and other allied factors.

General farm schools are being held throughout the State, but the tobacco school in the county courthouse next Monday night is one of only a few planned in the State.

Martin farmers are vitally interested in tobacco, and the school

Ask Railroad To Reconsider Stand On Right Of Way

Representatives Deny They Agreed To Limit Claim To Eight Feet

Meeting with town officials here Tuesday, representatives of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company were asked to reconsider their claim to a 30-foot right-of-way for its track from Washington Street to Smithwick. The meeting was cordial and the representatives of the company seemed agreeable, but it was fairly apparent that antagonistic opposition existed higher up.

Representatives of the company denied having promised the town permission to pave the street to a point eight feet from the center of the track, explaining that they were misunderstood, and adding that they had promised to recommend such a concession. The representatives, apparently anxious to cooperate with the town in solving an acute problem, said they would again take it up with higher officials.

During the meantime, the company is maintaining a 30-foot right of way for its tracks from Washington Street to Smithwick with heavy iron stakes and steel cables, making it difficult for traffic to move one way on the street.

The town is making ready to handle an extensive drainage project in that area between Elm and Sycamore Streets, and again it faces the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company. Engineer Henry Rivers plans to connect the newly proposed drainage project to the ditches beside the railroad at or near the foot of Slade Street. No answer has been received since the matter was called to the attention of the company officials.

The railroad has encountered much difficulty in keeping its track clear from Washington Street to Smithwick for some time. It was necessary for the train crew to push vehicles off the track at times. That was an extreme condition. Now, the company has swung the pendulum to the other extreme in declaring its rights to a 30-foot strip. Many local people, including a number of the company patrons, are up in arms against the action, and have directed meaningful complaints to the town officials.

Back in 1912, the right-of-way was leased or deeded over the signature of Mayor B. F. Godwin, to the railroad company for the magnificent sum of \$10, the town having previously built the track to the river for the old Williamston Coopers Company.

Since the right-of-way was staked off, several vehicles have crashed into the iron stobs, but no threats have been made against the company.

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Victim Of Tree Fall Reported Improving

Suffering a broken back in a fall from a pecan tree several weeks ago, Mr. Abe Haislip of near Robersonville was reported much improved following an examination in a hospital here yesterday afternoon. He made the trip to and from the hospital for the examination in a Robersonville ambulance.

Call Firemen To Griffin Avenue

Williamston volunteer firemen handled their third call in four days last Tuesday afternoon at 5:10 o'clock when they were called to the home of Sim Smith on Griffin Avenue. A fire, starting around a defective flue, charred several joists and threatened the house. Other than water damage, there was no loss to furniture and clothing, and the actual damage to the structure itself was limited.

Firemen had been called to the home at least once prior to last Tuesday.

The fire-fighting equipment was blocked in the heavy Main Street traffic in making its way to the fire.

New Judge On Bench In The County Court

Judge Peele Calls Twenty-six Cases In County's Court

Following the longest Christmas New Year holiday in years, the Martin County schools are back on a normal operating schedule, according to a report released yesterday by the office of the county superintendent.

Despite much general sickness, attendance figures were said to be about average. Only one teacher, Mrs. Evelyn Cherry, of the Robersonville faculty, was unable to resume her work. It was reported she continues ill at her home in Stokes.

A few changes have been reported in pupil personnel, but the tenants have not started moving yet in great numbers, and the individual schools do not know how many pupils they are to lose in the shuffle.

Native Of County Died Tuesday At Washington Home

Funeral Held Wednesday Afternoon In Washington For H. K. Brown

Henry K. Brown, native of this county and a retired Washington business man, died at his home there last Tuesday morning at 1:00 o'clock following a critical illness of about a week. He had been in failing health since 1946 when he retired.

The son of the late James Z. and Mary Jane Long Brown, he was born near Jamesville in this county 30 years ago on August 29, 1872, and spent most of his early life there on the farm. Moving to Washington when a young man, he engaged in the cafe business for many years, after making his home in Pinetown for a short time.

Mr. Brown was a member of the Pinetown Missionary Baptist Church and was a former superintendent of the Sunday School. He was a member of the Junior Order and the Charitable Brotherhood Lodge. Mr. Brown was married three times, the first marriage being to Emma Latham; the second to Carrie Respass; and the third to Laura Whitley in 1913, who survives.

Surviving besides his widow are three sons, James C. and Henry H. Brown of Pelletier, Elm-er H. Brown of Pinetown; one daughter, Mrs. E. S. Winstead of Washington; ten grandchildren; six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the First Baptist Church in Washington Wednesday afternoon at 2

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Everetts Ruritans Install Officers

Woolard Peel was installed president of the Everetts Ruritans Club at its meeting Tuesday night. M. P. Mobley is the vice-president and G. H. Forbes is treasurer. Darrell Taylor also assumed his duties as secretary during the ceremony.

Committees appointed for the new club year are as follows: Refreshment, G. G. Bailey, chairman, H. L. Roebuck, and Alton Keel; entertainment and program, Paul Bailey, chairman, Buck Ayers, Lewis Wynn, and H. L. Roebuck; education, Eugene Morrow, chairman, J. E. Mobley, and R. L. Bailey; objectives, Monte Mobley, chairman, G. G. Bailey, Paul Bailey, G. W. Taylor, and Eugene Morrow; finance, George W. Taylor, chairman, D. C. Peel, L. A. Clark and G. H. Forbes.

A report was given on the turkey shoot and turkey raffle by Darrell Taylor, who said the response was unusually generous. Aid was given several needy families from the funds raised by this project.

The women of the Missionary Society of Everetts Baptist church served supper to the members of the club.

Eight Percent Cut In Leaf Acreages Ordered For 1953

County Farmers Allotted 12,312 Acres Under New Proposal

In keeping with a general and unofficial order, calling for an eight percent reduction in the crop acreages this year, Martin County farmers will reduce their tobacco plantings from 13,383 to 12,312 acres. It is likely that the eight percent reduction order will be applied straight across the board. A cut of twelve percent had been considered earlier but the 1952 crop fell below preliminary estimates and the reduction order was placated a bit.

Coming in the face of a "tight" labor situation, the reduction is being welcomed by most tobacco farmers, it is believed.

The new quota for North Carolina adds up to a total of 1,048,000 acres as compared with 1,127,000 acres allotted last year.

As usual, one per cent of the total acreage will be reserved for adjustment of individual farm allotments for farms on which no flue-cured tobacco was grown during the past five years.

Notices of 1953 acreage allotments will be mailed in the near future to individual farm operators.

Prospective demand for flue-cured tobacco, department officials said, "continued good" with no significant change in recent months. Demand by domestic manufacturers against the 1953 crop is expected to be around 900 million pounds and foreign demand is expected to be around 425 million pounds.

Noting that farmers generally plant about 98 percent of the allotted acreage, the Department estimates that the 1953 crops would total about 1,300 to 1,325 million pounds—assuming continuation of yields of recent years.

In a referendum last July, 98.3 per cent of 260,163 tobacco growers participating voted in favor of continuation of marketing quotas.

North Carolina is the biggest single producer of flue-cured tobacco, with other producing states being Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Alabama.

The quota action followed a meeting in Raleigh last month in which James E. Thigpen, Director of the Tobacco Branch of the Department of Agriculture, called a secret meeting to discuss the possible cut in the crop. Sentiment at the meeting ranged from no reduction to 12 per cent.

County Youth Now Serving In Japan

Airman-second class Samuel D. Rogerson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse D. Rogerson of RFD 2, Williamston, recently arrived in Japan, where he is stationed with the US Air Force.

Airman Rogerson reached Yokohama, Japan, on December 29 and the following morning left for Iwakuni, Japan, where he is now stationed. In a letter written New Year's Eve, he said he and others in his group were pleasantly surprised at conditions at the base.

Sailors and the Royal Air Force of Australia are stationed on the base along with the US Air Force, Airman Rogerson reported.

His address is A-2c Samuel D. Rogerson, AF 14389914, 75th Erection and Storage Sqdn., APO 954, care of Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif.

Injured While Playing At School Yesterday

Victor Jones, 10-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest V. Jones of RFD 1, Williamston, was painfully but believed not seriously hurt while playing at the grammar school here shortly after the noon hour yesterday. He is said to have suffered a head injury in a fall.

He was removed to a local hospital for treatment, and was reported this morning to be improving.