

REQUEST WHITLEY RUN FOR MAYOR

Is Country Church Likely To Become Defunct Institution

More or Less 30 Churches In This County With About 5000 Members

REPRESENT MANY DENOMINATIONS

Automobiles Do Not Increase Church Attendance But Tend To Work To The Contrary Purpose; Few In Each Church Sacrifice For The Other Members Which Tends To Attract Many Away To Better Organized City Churches

What about the passing of the country church?

Much has been said and written about the passing of the country church, but the passing of the country church has claimed little attention from those well able to write on the subject.

Here in Washington county there is about thirty or more white churches which have a total membership of about five thousand. A great number of these churches are located in the rural districts as there are only four in Plymouth, three in Roper, two in Mackeys and three in Creswell.

These churches are organized in the domains of the different denominations including about six Episcopal churches; six Missionary Baptist churches; about three Free Will Baptist churches; about five Methodist Episcopal churches; South about four Methodist Protestant churches; about five Christian churches; and three or four Primitive Baptist churches with a scattering of several other denominations represented.

Many of the churches that are now in the little towns in this county originated in the country sections and were moved to the towns by the members in order to continue their operation as a religious unit. One of the first churches organized in this county originated from a small group of religious workers that took the move in the interest of "morality and spirituality."

Folks in the rural sections of the county are gradually overcoming that timidity that has marked their social dealings with townfolk in the past and they are flocking to the town churches. Right here in Plymouth, a majority of the members of one of the churches are rural residents that commute with the church on each Sunday. Automobiles have made this possible.

It is generally known that many ministers and church leaders are numbering among their recent additions converts from the rural sections. Some of these country folk seem to be more religiously inclined than their more prosperous neighbors in the towns.

Times seemed to have changed again when a person attends churches now, they only find a small congregation whereas in times past there were people from many miles around represented in the gathering that attended these meetings which were held on an average of once a month. More pleasant and faster means of conveyance and transportation do not tend to increase the attendance at these meetings but these new facilities seem to serve the contrary purpose better.

As is the case with every other organization, there are only a few in each church that do the sacrificing for the entire membership. This is so in the country churches. The pastors are leaving the country churches for larger salaries in the city churches. This tends to weaken the institution that has been a landmark in American history, as the times goes by.

Visiting many of the old church buildings in the county, it is evident

MACKEYS CLUB MET WITH MRS. DAVENPORT

Mackeys, Feb. 14.—The Mackeys Home Demonstration Club met at the home of Mrs. W. B. Davenport last Tuesday. Mrs. Davenport told in an interesting manner what the leader's school meant to her. Mrs. Joe Blount was elected the garden leader for the club and will make a monthly report on vegetables raised in each member's garden. The goal is to plant at least one vegetable that has never been planted before. Most every member in this club has a year-round garden with at least an average of four green vegetables growing now.

The home demonstration agent, Miss Covington, took up the study of the balanced meal with the club. The question was asked, just what is a balanced meal? The answer was given after comparing our bodies with an automobile. A balanced meal is one that meets all the needs of the body. Namely, to turn out energy, heat, build and repair, to regulate the body processes, and promote growth and health. Each member was provided with a "Guide to Meal Planning," and a health score card.

Different effects of good and poor foods were discussed. Miss Covington showed some very effective posters bringing out the lack of the vitamins in our diet. After the meeting, Mrs. Davenport served hot coffee, chicken salad sandwiches in the shape of hearts, and delicious candy in attractive valentine nut cups.

COMMERCIALISTS HAVE SPECIAL SESSION TONIGHT

Members of the chamber of commerce will meet this evening to make final preparations for the trip to Raleigh, at which time a delegation will appear before the State Highway Commission in the interest of the bridges to span the Roanoke, Middle, and Cashie rivers and Broad Creke, and a causeway to link the bridges together, thus joining Bertie and Washington counties.

A thorough survey of the traffic coming into Plymouth by the way of Ward's bridge; by the way of the Edenton-Mackeys Ferry and by the way of the Chowan bridge is being made and affidavits as to this check will be placed in the hands of President Norman of the commercial body to present them to the road commission. Statewide celebrities will be in the delegation that attends the meeting from this section.

MEET TO PLAN FOR CHURCH

The building committee of the Methodist Church met in the chamber of commerce hall last night to consider the erection of a new church or the improvement of the present structure.

ALMO THEATRE TONIGHT

Harrison Ford
IN
"Just Married"
M. G. M. NEWS
Saturday Night
Dorothy Mackaill
IN
"Lady Be Good"
Eight Episode of Serial
"Mark of the Frog"
M. G. M. NEWS
Tues. & Wd. Night
Monte Blue
IN
"Across the Atlantic"

Statistics For Club Work In Eleven Counties Is Released

Home demonstration clubs in Washington County reached 1,332 white females over 10 years of age in 778 white farm homes during the year of 1928, it was learned here today from Miss Pratt Covington, Washington county home demonstration agent, who exhibited statistics of the work done in all the northeastern counties of North Carolina, which was compiled by Miss Thomas, district agent at Washington. The percent of white females reached in this county was given at 50 per cent.

Currituck County workers reached 413 homes with a total of 1,005 women and girls in them with the extension work. In Chowan County 696 homes were visited with a total of 1,200 females reached. About 897 homes with a total of 1,318 women and girls were reached in Hertford county. Approximately 1,348 women and girls were reached in 862 white homes in Casquotank county. Beaufort, Pitt, Northampton, Nash, Halifax, Edgecombe counties were mentioned in the

statistics. Under the percentage of white homes reached through county-wide campaigns, Hertford county maintained the highest average of 30 per cent. Washington county trailed Hertford county in the total number of white farm homes visited during the year. The total number of white females reached in the previous year amounted to near 20,000 in the eleven counties, with Hertford county clubs reaching the most with Washington and Halifax counties trailing respectively.

Halifax county held the highest record of homes reached through the medium of hot lunches. The percentage of white females reached by other means was the highest in Hertford county, which maintained a 61 per cent record. The survey also showed the percentage of homes in each county that was reached outside of the clubs. About 78 per cent of the homes in Washington county were reached by the club workers.

Seven Negroes Found Guilty of Affray In Holly Neck Section

Nine Negroes from the Holly Neck section were arraigned before Judge Zeb Vance Norman in Recorder's Court here Tuesday morning charged with an affray in which deadly weapons, such as knives, guns and clubs were used. The melee was an outcome of what the evidence indicated to show was a drinking party with Chelsie Bess as the victim of the other fighters.

Isaiah Chesson was the star witness for the State and rendered the evidence that resulted in the conviction of seven of the group of Negroes. Those alleged to have been in the melee were Martha Alexander, Lonnie Alexander, Maggie Norman, Lucille Norman, Mat Norman, Chelsie Bess, Sam and Susan Norman and Isabelle Burnette. Lucille Norman and Mat Norman. The institute was sponsored by the

quitted. C. L. Davenport was also called to the stand to witness against the Negroes as he endeavored to quell the riot that was caused by the Negroes near the Holly Neck church, which services were being held. He quit them one time. A short time later the incited mob assailed Chelsie Bess again. During one of the series of attacks Martha Alexander drew a pistol at Chelsie while Lonnie Alexander was pointing a shotgun at his face.

Lonnie Alexander and wife, Martha Alexander, were fined \$20 and cost each. Six of the others were fined \$ and one-seventh of the costs while Chelsie Bess was let off with the payment of a seventh of the costs. Those not able to pay the costs were sentenced to the county roads for a time.

Minister And Undertaker Explain Disposition of Casket

Editor of the Beacon:

Sir: My attention has been called to an article which appeared in a local paper relative to the unique casket which was unearthed last week in the grave yard of Grace Episcopal Church. The facts are these, that the casket was dug up in response to the insistent demands of members of Grace Church and because of the fact that the ground was dug up from time to time by people who had the idea that it was an iron box containing money and other valuables, and it was largely to allay all such rumors that the casket was dug up. However, after the casket was opened at the local undertakers, I gave instructions then to the undertaker to bury the remains, which he promised to do and I know he did do the next day.

The rumor that the bones were given away as souvenirs is unfounded, and the story that the parts of the body were being taken around town to frighten young girls is due to the fact that it was brought out to the front to be shown to some young ladies who were afraid to go to the back room of the undertaker establishment and then put back again, is all there is to the rumor. The casket was retained above ground until such time as it could be examined and was then put back and all the remains which were put in the ground so that none of the remains might be missing was put back into the casket and buried, as was originally intended, and I have

gone to the undertaker and he has assured me that my instructions as to the burial of the body and casket were carried out.

There was no intention on the part of any person connected with the transaction to desecrate either the grave or anything else, and since the rumor of buried treasure is allayed and the casket and remains are buried as I gave instructions, the matter is closed as far as I know and am concerned.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. MARSHALL
Rector.

Editor of the Beacon:

Sir: I have read the article written by Rev. Mr. Marshall concerning the casket which was dug up in Grace Church yard recently, and want to say that his instructions concerning the burial of the casket and body were complied with, and after we had made an examination of the casket we placed the remains in it and buried it. The rumors concerning the bones being given away, and other stories of a like nature, are false, as nobody had any intention of desecrating either the grave or the body, and the only reason that the casket was dug up was to put to rest all the rumors that have been going around for years about it. No graves were mutilated or touched, and this casket is now where it was when we found it.

(Signed) W. T. NURNEY,
Undertaker.

FOREST SPECIALIST TO BE IN COUNTY SOON

R. W. Graber, forest specialist from State College, at Raleigh, will be in Washington County February 25 and 26 for a study of forests in this section. A meeting will be held on the lot opposite the barrel stave factory midway between Plymouth and Roper

BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD HERE

The tournament games in which high school teams from the surrounding towns will compete for final honors will be played here on the local court next week. A postponed game between Plymouth and Columbia will be played at an early date.

City's Present Chief Executive Is Silent As To Future Steps

FEW FROM THIS SECTION GO TO RALEIGH MEET

Only a few people from Washington county are attending the Institute on Parental Education that closes its second annual meeting in Raleigh today. Special emphasis was placed upon the problems of adolescent youth during the entire session as the first session held during the time last year dealt with the young child. This institute afforded parents research workers, teachers, ministers, physicians, welfare and health workers an opportunity to gather and study the problem of child training.

Wednesday and Thursday afternoons of this week were used in six round-table discussions on the following subjects: The Spiritual Adjustment of Adolescent Youth led by Dr. W. L. Potat of Wake Forest; The Place of Recreation in Child Development led by Supt. Guy Phillips of Salisbury; Child Guidance led by Dr. Myllis Blanchard of Philadelphia; The Family and the Home led by Professor Ernest R. Groves of the University of North Carolina; The Physical Development of the Changing Child led by Dr. Frank Howard Richardson of Black Mountain and New York; and the Home-School Relationships led by Dr. Caroline Hedger of Chicago.

This morning the whole conference met in an open forum led by Dr. E. C. Lindeman, Consulting Director of the National Council on Parental Education, at which time reports from the round-table meetings were brought up and discussed for the benefit of the entire group.

The purpose of the institute was to make available to parents seeking help the information and knowledge garnered by various agencies which are capable of making a contribution to the greatest of all vocations, the rearing of healthy, happy, intelligent, and socially efficient boys and girls. The institute was sponsored by the State Council on Parental Education, consisting of representatives from various State departments and institutions.

FUNERAL HELD FOR ED SNELL SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Skinnerville, Feb. 14.—Ed Snell, who died as the result of a severe case of pneumonia Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock at his home was buried Sunday afternoon in the White Chapel cemetery. Funeral services were held at the home by the pastor of the White Chapel Church.

For a number of years he has been affiliated with subsidiary organizations of the Rehoboth Church. Surviving is a widowed mother, Mr. Joseph Halsey, and three sisters, Mr. John Snell, Mrs. Mamie Phelps and Mrs. Joe Snell of this community and one brother, Asa Snell, near Grove.

FIRE DAMAGES HOUSE TO AMOUNT OF \$50

Fire originating from a defect in the chimney caused damages estimated at about \$50 at the home of J. W. Williamson, on Main Street, Monday afternoon. The flames first caught the attention of a negro woman on an opposite street, who informed them of the danger. Firemen arrived shortly after the alarm was sounded, and the flames were quickly gotten under control.

Miss Elizabeth Ramsey and Miss Cole, of Williamston, were here during the week end visiting Mrs. Edison

Miss Helen White, a teacher in the Elm City schools, was here during the week end visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. White.

Attorney Verifies Rumor He Considers Entering Race To Please Friends

ALL COUNCILMEN NOT SUBE RUNNING

Mayor Walker Has Seen Town Improved In Many Ways In His Administration; Greatest Feature Is Drastic Reduction In Taxes; Wou'd Have It That Current Administration Be Marked As One Economical In Expense

Indications are that Mayor R. P. Walker will have an opponent in the election of town officers in May should he desire to run again to retain his present position, as a rumor here that Attorney W. L. Whitley is considering the matter was affirmed by the lawyer himself in a statement to the Beacon representative yesterday.

Several friends of Mr. Whitley have approached him about the matter, even at this premature time. He stated, "I am still considering the matter, although I will not be able to make any definite statement until later." He refrained from running during the last election after friends had approached him about the matter. He withheld his reasons for his failure to run from the press.

Mr. Whitley has been practicing law in this section for a number of years. He is a member of several fraternal orders, and is Grand Master of North Carolina in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He teaches a Sunday school class in the local Christian church and is very interested in the social and civic endeavors of the town.

Mr. Walker has served his term as mayor of the town admirably, and several of his friends are anxious that he reenter the race at the expiration of his term. In a statement to The Beacon, Mayor Walker refrained from expressing himself as regards the matter, and it is not definitely known whether or not he will enter the race in May.

Councilman H. A. Williford stated, "I do not think that I will run for reelection; however, I may run after further consideration." Councilman B. G. Campbell stated that he was of the opinion that he would not run again unless he decided to at a later date. Councilman C. M. Tetterton says, "It may not be legal for me to run, as I will move into a new ward at about the time the election will be held, and in this event I could not run for reelection from the ward in which I live at the present."

In answer to a question as to whether or not he would run for reelection, Councilman Gilbert Davis stated, "I may run again; however, at this time I am reluctant to say positively that I will." Attorney Edward L. Owens stated, "I haven't considered the matter enough to reply definitely either in the affirmative or negative in regard to running." Councilman Harry Stell could not be reached at the time that this information was being sought, but close friends were of the opinion that he would run.

Among the achievements of the present members of the city council has been the drastic reduction in taxes from \$2.40 to \$1.68; the purchase of new fire-fighting equipment; the agreement to become partly responsible for the cost survey of the bridges, and many other progressive movements. This administration tended to make a mark of economy in the administration of the affairs of the city.

Those among the incumbents that will run for reelection in the town election in May will likely point to the accomplishments of the present administration. The campaign promises to be a lively one.