

# THE ROANOKE BEACON

And Washington County News

A home newspaper dedicated to the service of Washington County and its 12,000 people.

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## MAKE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION OF LOCAL STUDENTS

### Few Ailments Found Except Bad Tonsils and Many Underweight

General physical examinations of children in the local schools were in progress this week, commencing Monday. Drs. Bray, McGowan and Whitehurst have been making the examinations at the rate of about 25 daily, it was stated by school authorities yesterday. It is expected that the examinations will be concluded about the first of October.

The purpose of the examinations is to find out if there is any chronic disease among the children that could be remedied by treatment while the diseases is in its early stages. According to those conducting the tests, remarkably few defects are being found outside of tonsil and adenoid troubles. Many children need treatment for these ailments, but they are singularly free of bad teeth, at least so far as those already examined are concerned.

Many of the school pupils are also being found to be underweight, so much so that Principal E. H. Hicks stated yesterday he was planning to institute a milk fund the second week in October to furnish children who are underweight with about two pints of milk daily. This plan has not yet been worked out completely, the principal stating that he imagined a fund of \$18 to \$20 a month would be required, according to present indications.

One citizen of the town, who prefers to remain anonymous, has already promised to donate \$3 monthly to the milk fund, and Mr. Hicks is planning to solicit other donations just as soon as something more definite can be learned about the requirements.

## WHOLESALE TO ERECT BUILDING

### Begin Work on Structure For B. G. Campbell on Water Street

Construction work was recently started on the new building being erected for B. G. Campbell, local wholesale grocer. The structure is being built on Water Street, between the offices of the Stone and Webster Construction Co., and the A. C. L. freight station.

Mr. Campbell stated yesterday that the new building will give him about three times the amount of storage space that he now has and he is planning to considerably enlarge the stock of goods he is now carrying. He started in business here in 1921, and has built up one of the largest commercial enterprises of its type in this section of the State.

The new building will be 50 by 110 feet, the front being of brick, with the side walls and back of metal. According to present plans, the building will be occupied by the firm about the latter part of October.

Mr. Campbell is planning to carry a complete line of feeds and hay when he gets into his new quarters. Although he has stocked these lines for some time, he has not been in position to carry as large a stock as he wished, which is one of the reasons for building the new headquarters.

## LOCAL SCHOOL CLUBS FORMED

### Toy Orchestra for Lower Grades and Glee Club in High School

A toy orchestra for the elementary grades and glee club for the high school were formed at the Plymouth schools Wednesday of this week. Mrs. Hicks is director of both organizations, and much interest is being displayed in the projects. Around 50 or 60 students signified their intention of joining the glee club the first day.

The toy orchestra is drawing a lot of attention from the smaller children. Instruments to be used by the members include drums, castanets, cymbals, kazoos, etc. Both the toy orchestra and glee club will practice each Wednesday afternoon, the final period of the day being devoted to this work by Mrs. Hicks.

## Only Two Cases Tried By Recorder Tuesday

The session of recorder's court Tuesday was the shortest that has been held in many weeks, lasting only about an hour. Only two cases were called, one of the defendants being released and the other one getting a sentence to the roads.

Following are the two cases disposed of:

The case against Nathaniel Webb, charged with fraud, was non-suited. Claud Carter, colored, charged with assault with a deadly weapon, was found guilty by Judge Jerry Sawyer and given a 60-day road sentence.

## Tobacco Growers of County Will Meet Friday Morning

An educational meeting in the interest of cooperative marketing of tobacco will be held in the courthouse here Friday morning, beginning at 9 o'clock, it was definitely announced by Dean I. O. Schaub, of State College, this morning. County Agent R. E. Dunning, who is in charge of arrangements for the meeting, is urging a full attendance of Washington County tobacco growers.

Mr. W. S. Green, representing the Federal Farm Board, will address the meeting and will outline the proposed plans for the new organization and answer any questions that may be asked relative to federal aid.

It was thought that after the State mass meetings were held in Raleigh the proposed contracts would be discussed at the meeting

here today. However, it was learned from Dean Schaub this morning that the meeting would point out the government's part in cooperative marketing, that the contract would be discussed at community meetings as soon as the county groups were completed in the belt. Dean Schaub stated that the Friday meeting was a very necessary one toward organization of a marketing system, and that farmers should make every attempt to attend and hear Mr. Green.

Frank Page, Monday, declined acceptance of chairman of the cooperative committee, but several other names are being considered, among them being the name of Leeland Kitchin, of Scotland Neck. Definite working arrangements are expected to be complete not later than next week, according to information received here.

## Councilmen Pass Ordinance Against Huckstering Before 9:30 on Curb Market Days

### May Offer Evening Class in Arithmetic

An arithmetic course for employed men, to be held from 7:30 to 8:30 p. m. on each school day, is being considered by local school authorities, it was learned Wednesday. Mr. E. H. Hicks, the principal, said that if at least 10 men could be enrolled, an instructor would be furnished and the class held, beginning just as soon as a sufficient number applied. Tuition for the term of nine months will be \$5, and those desiring to enroll in such a class are asked to give their names to Professor Hicks.

## MR. E. L. HASSELL DIES SUDDENLY

### Well-Known Farmers Drops Dead While Plowing on Farm Near Here

Ernest Linwood Hassell, 70, died suddenly plowing at his home on the H. C. Sprull farm, about three miles from Plymouth last Friday morning at 9 o'clock. The cause of his death was said to have been apoplexy. Mr. Hassell had been in his usual health, and his death came as a shock to his friends and relatives in the section.

Mr. Hassell was born October 25, 1860, in Tyrrell county. He had farmed in this county practically all of his life, principally in the Creswell and Roper sections. He moved on the Sprull farm near here only last year.

Besides the widow, Mrs. Maybel Hassell, he is survived by nine children, as follows: Mrs. Ella Ambrose, of Edenton; David Hassell, of Norfolk; T. B. Hassell, of Philadelphia; Mrs. Lucinda Woodley, of Washington county; Andrew Hassell, of Philadelphia; and Clinton, Lena, Ellie and John Hassell, of this county. He also leaves a brother, Walter H. Hassell, of Columbia; two half-brothers, C. E. Hassell, of Norfolk, and Dick Hassell, of Elizabeth City; and two half-sisters, Mr. Jesses Owens, of Delaware; and Mrs. Caroline Davenport, of New York City.

Funeral services were conducted at the home Sunday morning at 10 a. m., by Rev. M. Gaskill, Baptist minister. Inquest was made in the family cemetery at Cherry.

## Achievement Tests Being Given School Pupils Here

Principal E. H. Hicks began giving a series of achievement tests at the local schools Wednesday of this week, the purpose of which is to determine what instruction is most needed by each of the 650 pupils enrolled. It will require about a week to complete giving the tests, which will extend to every student in the school, from the first through the eleventh grades.

The information gained will be used in determining the type of instruction to be offered to the individual pupil, according to the principal, the findings to be classified and turned over to the teachers for their information. It is thought the tests will be completed by Wednesday of next week.

## Episcopal Services

Rev. Arthur H. Marshall, Rector  
Mr. Frith Winslow, Sunday School Superintendent.  
Sunday School at 10 a. m.

## BODY OF MISSING NEGRO IS FOUND IN RIVER HERE

### John McRay, 60, of Near Roper, Believed Victim Of Accident

The body of John McRay, 60-year-old highly respected negro of the Roper section, was found in the Roanoke River just back of the market house here Monday afternoon, after he had been missing since Saturday night. McRay left his home near Roper Saturday afternoon and when he did not return at his usual time, relatives became alarmed and notified county authorities. A systematic search for the missing man was started by Sheriff Reid, and he was out searching for the man in another section of the county when the body was discovered in the river here.

Rev. R. G. L. Edwards, pastor of the local Methodist church, was looking out of a window on the second floor of the Harney building about 3 o'clock Monday afternoon when he discovered the body, which was lodged face down on some brush in the river. He notified officers, who recovered the body.

It was at first thought that McRay had been murdered and his body thrown in the river, as he was known to have had about \$100.00 on his person Saturday afternoon before he disappeared. However, later events disproved the murder theory, there being no evidence of foul play on the body. A gold watch and \$30.65 in cash were taken from his clothing after he had been removed from the river.

The office of coroner of the county being vacant at the time, Clerk of the Superior Court C. V. W. Ausbon appointed Dr. T. L. Bray special coroner to make an investigation. A jury, consisting of George W. Harrison, C. C. Craft, R. G. L. Edwards, E. A. Brothers, C. T. Robbins and W. E. Weede, was empaneled, and after a thorough investigation returned a verdict that the negro came to his death as a result of accidental drowning.

It is generally thought that McRay wandered off one of the docks some time late Saturday night. He was said to have been drinking earlier in the day. He had been farming in the Horton Town section, near Roper, and recently sold all his belongings there, planning to join his wife, who was in some northern city.

## HIGH SCHOOL AT CRESWELL LOOKS FOR GOOD YEAR

### After Week of Organizing, Work Gets Underway in Earnest

Creswell, Sept. 24.—After a week of organizing, the work in Creswell High School is under way, with prospects bright for the most successful year the school has ever experienced.

Equipment for a football team has been ordered, and a gridiron is being laid off and made ready for early games. A game has been postponed until a later date because the equipment for the team did not arrive. Local supporters of the game are looking forward to a splendid team under the direction of Mr. G. W. Ray.

The agricultural classes in Creswell High School are being well attended. Much interest is being manifested on the part of the high school boys in these classes. The purpose of the agricultural classes in the school is to serve the immediate needs of the farmers in this section in the way of farm management and the cultivation of crops, and in any other way that may be found possible. The school authorities hope that the farmers throughout the section will take advantage of the opportunity that they now have and let Mr. Rabon, the agricultural teacher, be of the greatest possible service to them.

The greatest need of the school at this time is a new building that will accommodate the large number of students going to the institution. Both the temporary and the old building are uncomfortably crowded. The facilities for drinking water are not sufficient for the present large student body, while the auditorium will not seat more than half of the students enrolled. One of the citizens of the community stated that in order for the school to continue to grow as it has in the past few years, more room and equipment must be furnished.

## Home Agent's Schedule For Week Is Announced

Miss Pratt Covington, home demonstration agent, yesterday announced her schedule for the week beginning September 29th as follows:  
Monday, at Plymouth; Tuesday, Piney Grove; Wednesday, Beech Grove; Thursday, Plymouth; Friday, leaders' school, at courthouse in Plymouth, 2:30 p. m.; Miss Mary E. Thomas, nutrition specialist, in charge; Saturday, curb market.

## County Tax Rate Is Reduced To \$2.03 at Meet Last Friday

### CLUB WOMEN AND GIRLS WORKING ON FAIR EXHIBIT

#### Won Over \$150 at Fair Last Year; Hope To Do Even Better This Year

Miss Pratt Covington, home demonstration agent, stated Monday that Washington County club members, both women and girls, were busy on the county exhibit or the district fair at Tarboro this year, which will be held October 28-31. Last year the club women of the county won a total of \$118.50 at Tarboro for their county exhibit. Most of this money went to the individual members, although \$30 was given for use in the home agent's office.

Miss Covington said that the booth this year would be divided into four parts. Three parts are for the women club members, whose major projects, gardening, foods, and yard improvement, will be displayed as separate units. The fourth division of the booth will be for the arts and crafts exhibits of the home economics girls.

It is also probable that the display will be exhibited at the State fair in Raleigh, according to the home agent. Those who have exhibits in the county booth also have their products entered in the individual classes and thereby have a chance to win some of the prize money offered to individuals.

Much interest is being displayed in the exhibit, and Miss Covington is hoping to have an even better display than was presented last year. Besides the money won in Tarboro, three club girls won a trip to the short course held at Raleigh in August. At the Roanoke fair in Williamston last year, \$45 in cash was also realized.

## BURGLARS ROB STORE IN ROPER

### Millinery Shop of Miss Ida Peacock Ransacked by Intruders Saturday

Roper, Sept. 24.—Late Saturday night burglars broke into the millinery store owned by Miss Ida Peacock here, breaking the glass of the front window in order to force their entrance. Several dresses, some jewelry, mesh bags, hats, etc., were stolen, the thieves evidently picking the choicest merchandise from the racks in a very leisurely manner, striking a number of matches to furnish light. Apparently some one was on watch on the outside of the store.

The burglarly was not discovered until Sunday morning, when Mrs. Nita Mizelle, a merchant next door, discovered the broken window and informed Miss Peacock of the robbery. The value of the stolen goods has not as yet been determined.

## 28 Enrolled in Commercial Course Classes at School

Twenty-eight persons have registered for the typewriting and shorthand classes being conducted at the local school, it was said yesterday by officials. Two classes have been formed, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. A number of others are expected to enroll for the course.

At present, the afternoon class in typewriting has 10 members, while the evening class totals 18. Miss Phelps is in charge of the afternoon class, while Mr. L. J. Davis is instructor of the evening group.

## Firm Preparing to Make Audit of Town's Books

Preparations were being made this week for an immediate audit of the books of the town, as of August 1, 1930, it was announced yesterday by City Clerk M. W. Sprull. The audit will be made by Mr. Wall, of the Geo. R. Dobbie Co., of Rocky Mount.

Heretofore, it has been the practice to close the fiscal year of the town on May 31, and make the audit then. This caused some confusion in keeping books on privilege or license taxes and this year it was decided to make the audit as of August 31, by which time more of the privilege taxes have been paid.

## In Washington Hospital

Bill Waters, who is employed in the office of the county superintendent of schools, went to a Washington hospital Tuesday of this week to have his tonsils removed. He plans to return to his work before the last of the week.

Henderson county will have to import from four to five times as much feedstuffs as usual this winter because of the prolonged dry weather.

## Tom Thumb Wedding To Be Staged Tonight

Rehearsals are now being held for "The Tom Thumb Wedding," to be staged Friday night of this week in the high school auditorium at 8 o'clock. The entertainment is being sponsored by the local chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and a small admission will be charged. Over 40 of the little folks of the town are in the cast, and it is expected that the production will draw a large audience. Mrs. T. L. Bray and Mrs. Jack Reid are directing the play, while Evelyn Arps is soloist; Edith Edmondson, pianist; and John Steirs, violinist.

## MANY DONATIONS OF OLD CLOTHES

### Principal Hicks Says People Responded Liberally to Request Last Week

Principal E. H. Hicks, of the city schools, stated yesterday that the people of the community had been very liberal in their response to the call for old clothing for needy children. Donations began arriving at the school building Friday morning after the appeal was published in the Beacon of the same day. Mr. Hicks stated that many children had been furnished clothing from that donated by the people of the section and that at least 8 or 10 had been enabled to enter school by the kindness of the donors.

There is still some clothing on hand which will be distributed as the occasion requires. The principal said that there was still need for overalls and work clothes, particularly for boys about the ages of 7, 8, 9 and 10 years. Shirts are also in great demand, and Mr. Hicks will be glad to receive donations of these articles at any time.

## LOCAL COLORED SCHOOL OPENS

### Total of 458 Enrolled; 135 Registered in First Grade With One Teacher

The Plymouth Colored Schools opened Monday of this week in their new building, with a total enrollment of 458, four hundred of that number being in the elementary and intermediate grades and 58 in the high school department. E. A. Anderson is principal.

There is a total enrollment of 400 in the first seven grades, with only five teachers, an average of 80 to the teacher. The first grade, with one teacher, had a registration of 135 Tuesday. It is thought that at least two more teachers will have to be secured, although the county superintendent says the problem of providing funds for their salaries is almost insurmountable. The high school is much better off than the lower grades, there being three teachers for 58 students enrolled, an average of a fraction over 19 to the teacher.

The principal of the schools, E. A. Anderson, has begun a campaign to raise money for equipping the new building. He says the teachers are faced with many problems, but that they are expecting a successful year, nevertheless.

The enrollment, by grades, was announced as follows: first grade, 135; second, 85; third, 54; fourth, 40; fifth, 35; sixth, 25; seventh, 25; eighth, 21; ninth, 16; tenth, 13; eleventh, 8.

## Epworth League Held Meeting in Mackeys

The Roanoke Union of Epworth Leagues met at Mackeys on Monday night of this week, with large delegations from the Windsor, Williamston, Holly Springs, and Woodard leagues attending.

Mr. Dudley, of the Williamston League, conducted the devotional part of the program. Rev. Dwight A. Petty, also of Williamston, was the principal speaker of the evening, giving an inspiring talk to the young people on the league motto, "All for Christ."

After the devotional and address of Mr. Petty, a short business session was held, with Miss Pruden, president of the Roanoke Union in the chair. The young people then adjourned to the Mackeys School auditorium, where they enjoyed a pleasant social hour and were served with an ice course by the Mackeys league.

## COUNTY BOARD FIXES CURRENT YEAR'S BUDGETS

### Rate Fixed Is Two Cents Lower Than It Was Last Year

The 1930 tax rate for Washington county was fixed at \$2.03 at the meeting of the county board of commissioners held here last Friday. The rate is two cents lower than the rate for 1929, which was \$2.05, and represents a decrease of 45 cents from the rate of two years ago, when it was \$2.48. Washington county is one of the few counties in North Carolina that will have a lower rate this year than it had last, decreased valuations in many sections forcing increases in the rate.

County Accountant J. C. Gatlin stated yesterday that the board had put off fixing the budgets and rate for some time until a complete audit could be made in order that all possible items could be "cut to the bone" this year to effect a saving to the taxpayers. The board has been able to do even better than the members first hoped for, as they at one time were only working to retain the same rate as was in effect last year. Faced with a decreased valuation in county property of \$64,000, and with the fact that the sheriff's sale of property for taxes this year totaled over \$24,000, the task of retaining the old rate appeared almost hopeless.

The reduced rate was made possible only by insisting upon the strictest economy in every department of county affairs. The total sum called for by the budgets is \$206,206.52, of which \$70,168.04 is to be derived from sources other than taxation, this money coming principally from the State equalization fund and the county's share of the 1-cent gasoline tax levied by the State. The estimated amount of uncollectible taxes, commissions on collections, etc., is \$8,162.41, which makes a total of \$144,200.89 to be raised by the tax levy of \$1.80 per \$100 on a county valuation of \$7,996,664. There is then the 23 cents per \$100 required for operating the schools for the extra two months, which brings the total rate to \$2.03.

## Division of Funds

The funds that are smaller this year than last are county general fund, \$13,732.31, against \$14,291.04 last year, a decrease of \$558.73; poor fund, \$4,577.44, against \$4,736.68 in 1929, decrease of \$159.24; county debt service fund, \$54,392.42, against \$55,212.01, decrease of \$819.59; current expense fund, 6-months' school term, \$86,995.42, against \$87,056.37, decrease of \$60.95.

(Continued on page 6)

## NUMBER FARMS IS DECREASING

### 1,273 Farms in County in 1925, Against 1,091 in April This Year

There has been a decided fluctuation in the total number of farms in Washington county during the past 10 years, figures released by the Census Bureau, Washington, D. C., this week, reveal. In 1920, there were 1,110 farms in the county. By 1925 this number had grown to 1,273, while in April of this year there were only 1,091. In other words the county gained 163 farms in the period from 1920 to 1925 and then lost 182 in the five-year period, 1925-1930, leaving a net loss of 19 farms in the 10 years, or a percentage of loss of 1.7. The percentage of decrease in the decrease in the 1925-30 period was 14.3.

In connection with these figures, it was announced that a farm, for census purposes, includes all the land which is directly farmed by one person, either by his own labor alone or with the assistance of members of his household or hired employees. When a landowner has one or more tenants, renters, croppers, or managers, the land operated by each is considered a "farm."

## County Farmers Are Busy With Winter Cover Crops

Washington County farmers are busy this week planting winter cover crops and getting ready to harvest peanuts, County Agent R. E. Dunning stated yesterday afternoon. He said that present indications were that there would not be as large an acreage planted to the cover crops this year as there was in 1929. The principal cover crops are rye, vetch, and oats. Some barley is also being planted in the county for the first time this year.

While prospects for peanut prices are better than for many other farm products, only about half a crop is indicated now, the county agent said. Vines are looking good, but there are few peas to the plant. The quality is expected to be good.