

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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VOLUME 41—NUMBER 51

Plymouth, Washington County, North Carolina, Friday, December 5, 1930.

ESTABLISHED 1889

SUNDAY SCHOOLS OF TOWN TAKING CARE OF NEEDY

Several Worthy Cases Are Reported; Most Pressing Needs To Be Cared For

A number of needy cases in the community were brought to light last week by Sunday school workers, and steps are being taken to care for them until some form of welfare organization is perfected to look after the work. Three baskets of food were furnished deserving cases by the Episcopal Sunday school on Thanksgiving Day, and since that time officials of other Sunday schools in the city have agreed to do what they can to assist in local relief work.

One case was reported here in Plymouth where there was a family consisting of the mother and six children, ages of the latter ranging from 2 to 14 years, which did not have a particle of food in the house. The father of the family is out of town trying to secure work, and the mother was almost at her wit's end to secure food for her children when the Sunday school came to her rescue. Her children were also described as lacking warm clothing, one little tot wearing a short-sleeved dress in the near-zero weather the early part of the week. There are also a number of other really pathetic cases in the section, it is reported, where need for immediate relief is pressing.

It is understood that the Christian Sunday school has agreed to take care of two families, the Methodists two more, the Episcopalians one, while Baptist officials stated that they would take care of as many as possible through the church and Sunday school organizations.

Children in the Episcopal Sunday school are being asked to bring an extra 5 or 10 cents each Sunday to be used in purchasing a basket of food. It is being impressed upon them that they should deny themselves some luxury in order to provide the extra contribution and that it should not simply be an additional gift of their parents.

With all of the Sunday schools taking part in this work, it is felt that the most pressing needs of worthy cases can be supplied until some form of organization can be perfected to take over the work.

GIVES FIGURES ON SCHOOL BUS COSTS IN COUNTY

County Operates 16 Trucks At Average Yearly Cost of \$354.65 Each

County Superintendent J. W. Norman recently compiled figures giving facts relative to the cost of transportation of school children in Washington County that should prove of interest to the taxpayers. The county schools are operating 16 trucks this year, 5 Fords, 7 Chevrolets, 2 Internationals, and 2 Whippets. An average of 768 children are transported to and from school each day at an average cost of less than 5 cents each, the exact figures being 4.61 cents.

The total cost per year per truck is \$354.65, while the average daily cost per truck is \$2.215. Each truck travels an average of 30.80 miles each day of the session at a cost of 7.19 cents per mile. Each of the 16 trucks carries an average of 48 pupils daily at the per student cost of 4.61 cents.

The county superintendent has worked out the average costs according to the makes of the cars. While the names of the trucks are not presented here for obvious reasons, they will be furnished upon application to Mr. Norman.

The operating cost per truck per year ranges from \$298.88 for one make to \$394.14 for another. The average of the other two groups is \$387.88 and \$333.84. Miles traveled per year per truck, according to make, ranges from 4,415.4 to 5,938 miles, while the other two groups traveled 4,919 and 5,251.5 miles each.

The cost per mile of Make No. 1 is 7.516 cents; Make No. 2, 7.885 cents; Make No. 3, 6.638 cents; and No. 4, 5.691 cents. The average age of group No. 1 is 1.2 years; group No. 2, 1.71 years; group No. 3, 1.5 years; and group No. 4, 1 year. The age is figured as of June 30, 1930.

The number of pupils transported per day per truck, by groups, follows: No. 1, 39.8; No. 2, 52.5; No. 3, 52.4; No. 4, 41.9. The average number of miles traveled daily by each truck ranges from 27.1 for Group No. 2 to 37.3 for group No. 3. Group No. 1 averages 28.4 miles each day and Group No. 4, 33.2 miles.

Halifax and Hertford Go In For Beef Cattle

Two shipments of heifers and baby heaves from Halifax and Hertford counties topped the Baltimore market last week.

Musical Comedy for Benefit School To Be Staged Tonight

Rehearsals have been in full swing all week for the production of "Oh, Doctor," a big hit musical comedy to be staged at the high school auditorium here tonight (Friday) under the auspices of the high school. Funny lines have been learned, humorous stage situations have been perfected and everything is in readiness for the performance. The cast of characters includes some of the best dramatic and musical talent in town, and it is the amount of interest manifested is an indication, "Oh, Doctor" will be presented to a packed auditorium.

Proceeds from the production will be used for the benefit of the school. Among those taking part are Pauline Lucas, Sydney Ward, Robert Bowen, Mildred Spruill, Harry Lyon, Elizabeth Davidson, William Vail, Evelyn Arps, Onward Leggett, Robert Conklyn, Lyman Mayo, Bill Clifton, Cleus Cantrell, Gladys Kemp, Mildred Waters, Madeline Davis, and others. There are also a number of choruses, the entire presentation being under the direction of Miss Greenlee, representing the Triangle Producing Co., of Greensboro. It has been said that the costumes are some of the most attractive ones that are being used in amateur musical comedies.

W. Fletcher Ausbon, One of Leading Citizens of Section, Died Suddenly Last Saturday

FUNERAL HELD AT METHODIST CHURCH SUNDAY

Heart Failure Assigned As Cause of Sudden Death Saturday Morning

William Fletcher Ausbon, one of Plymouth's best-known and most-beloved citizens, died suddenly last Saturday morning shortly before 10 o'clock in the drug store of his son-in-law, E. G. Arps. Mr. Ausbon had answered a fire alarm as a member of the volunteer company of firemen here, and after returning from the fire station, he stopped in the drug store where he complained of a pain over his heart. He went into the rear of the store and sat down, rapidly becoming worse, death occurring before medical assistance could be summoned. Heart trouble was assigned as the cause of his death.

Mr. Ausbon was born just over the Washington county line, in Martin county, on February 17, 1867, the son of W. J. and Priscilla Ausbon. His parents lived on the Martin county farm for about a year, however, and Mr. Ausbon was reared and spent practically his entire life here in Plymouth.

In 1890, about one year after the Roanoke Beacon was established, Mr. Ausbon and his brother, C. V. W. Ausbon, formed a copartnership and purchased the paper from D. O. Brinkley. They operated it together, "Fletcher," as he was better known to the people here, acting as editor, while his brother was business manager of the newspaper. After about five or six years he sold his interest to his brother, C. V. W. Ausbon, and entered the insurance and realty business here, in which he was engaged at the time of his death.

By his unflinching courtesy and friendliness he built up a large patronage, also serving as justice of the peace for nearly a quarter of a century having first been appointed by the legislature in 1907. In his capacity as magistrate he handled about 90 per cent of all this type of work done in the entire county. He was a member and faithful worker for the Democratic party, although he did not allow his partisanship to interfere with his friendship of members of the opposition party, and to the day of his death he was held in the highest esteem by members of all the factions of both parties throughout the section. Mr. Ausbon was also deputy clerk of the superior court and was very active in public and civic affairs of whatever nature, freely giving his services to all worth-while causes.

He was married in 1889 to Miss Mattie Johnson, of near Plymouth, who, with seven daughters and two sons, survives him. The daughters are: Mrs. E. C. Caton, Mrs. W. Allan Crockett, and Mrs. Harry R. Livers, all of Hampton, Va.; Mrs. E. G. Arps, Mrs. Marion Ramsey and Misses Miriam and Hazel Ausbon, of Plymouth. His sons, Messrs. Frank C. and Hampton Ausbon also live in Plymouth.

Mr. Ausbon joined the Methodist church while very young, and was a very faithful member, taking an active part in the work of the church and serving in several official capacities at various times. He was also one of the most active members of the Plymouth Fire Department, and despite his advanced years he answered practically every alarm with the company. It was his request that the members of the department have charge of his funeral, and the big truck was used as a conveyance for the body from the church to the grave Sunday afternoon, members of the

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CHRISTMAS SEAL CAMPAIGN GETS UNDER WAY HERE

Seal Sale Being Sponsored Here by Literary Club Members

The annual Christmas Seal campaign was begun in Plymouth this week, when workers started canvassing local business houses. The sale of the seals in Washington county is being sponsored this year by the Thursday Afternoon Literary Club, and is being handled by a special committee appointed at a recent meeting. Mrs. J. S. Norman is chairman of the committee, which also includes as members Mrs. Henry Midgett and Mrs. R. W. Johnson.

Besides making a canvass of business houses here, the committee members plan to have the seals on sale at the drug stores, and it is also probable that some will be sold through the schools. The use of the seals is being urged in place of the usual little Christmas stickers on envelopes and packages between now and Christmas. A large sum is raised annually through the sale of the seals to be used in connection with the war being waged on tuberculosis.

Mrs. Norman stated that 75 per cent of the funds collected through the sale of the seals is retained for use in the county. The other 25 per cent is forwarded to the State Sanatorium for use there. Last year the proceeds from the local sale were used to buy a brace for a child near Roper who had tuberculosis of the bone. The money raised can only be used for tuberculosis work.

Miss Pratt Covington, county home agent, has also assured the committee of her cooperation, and it is understood that committees are to be appointed in each of the home demonstration clubs to assist in the sale of the seals. While no definite amount has been set as a goal, the club is hoping that the sale this year will surpass the record of former years, and it is considered likely that most of the outgoing letters from now until Christmas will have the little seals

CAR OWNERS FAIL TO OBSERVE LAW

Many Complaints About Cars Passing School Trucks

County Superintendent J. W. Norman stated yesterday that he was still receiving complaints from drivers of school busses about cars passing them while they were receiving or discharging children. The county superintendent said that he was loath to report the drivers who were violating the law, but that unless conditions very materially improved he would be forced to turn their names over to the selector who will institute actions against them in recorder's court.

The North Carolina traffic laws are very specific in saying that cars approaching a school bus while it is in the act of receiving or discharging passengers shall come to a full stop and remain at a standstill until the bus is again in motion. Drivers of the school trucks have been instructed to report the name of the person or number of the car violating this regulation. Several warnings have been given drivers in this section, and it is expected that arrests will follow continued violations.

Dr. Bray Elected Health Officer at Recent Meet

At a recent meeting of the Washington County Board of Health Dr. T. L. Bray, of Plymouth, was elected county health and quarantine officer to succeed Dr. W. H. Ward, whose death occurred several weeks ago. Dr. Bray is well known throughout the county, and his selection has met with general popular favor.

The County Health Board is composed of Drs. J. W. Speight, of Roper, and W. H. Harrell, of Creswell; Messrs. R. P. Walker, J. W. Norman, and J. C. Spruill, of Plymouth. Mr. J. C. Spruill, as chairman of the county board of commissioners, was ex-officio chairman of the board of health.

JUDGE OWENS HOLDS COURT

New Recorder Had Only Two Cases for Trial Tuesday

Edward L. Owens, the new judge of the Washington County Recorder's Court, and perhaps one of the youngest judges in the State, being only 26 years old, occupied the bench at the session here Tuesday for his first time. While there were only a couple of minor cases brought before him, Judge Owens made a very favorable impression of the court attendants and dispatched the work of the court in a very businesslike manner.

Five colored people were called to answer assault charges. The first, a man, was found guilty and a road sentence of two months was imposed after the defendant had stated that he was unable to pay a fine of \$50.

The second case called was against two colored women charged with assault. The court found them all guilty of participating in an affray, and during the presentation of evidence it was brought out that the men were armed with pistols, which added charges of carrying concealed weapons to their offenses. The women were required to pay fines of \$10 each and one-fourth of the court costs, while the two men were given road sentences of four months each.

\$6,000 Mailed to Savings Club Members

Approximately \$6,000 were mailed out to members of the Christmas Savings Club of the Branch Banking and Trust Co., of Plymouth, on Wednesday of last week. There were about 165 members of the clubs who received the checks, which varied in amount from \$12.75 to \$500. Mr. H. E. Beam, the cashier, said that originally the plan was to mail the checks out early in December, but it was later decided to mail them out on the eve of Thanksgiving in order to make that day brighter for many folks.

The Christmas Savings Club plan of saving is looked upon with favor by many people who otherwise would not have a very bright outlook at Christmas, bank officials said, and it is expected that an even larger number will join the club for next year. The club for 1931 is now forming, and practically all who received checks last week are planning to join in again. Small amounts may be paid in weekly for the 50 weeks the club operates, and at the end of the period checks are mailed out for the total paid in plus interest. Members of the 25-

Geo. W. Hardison to Succeed J. C. Gatlin as County Auditor

20 Per Cent of Tax Levy Is Collected So Far by Sheriff

Sheriff J. K. Reid last week turned over his first installment of the 1930 tax levy to the county treasurer, the amount totaling about \$35,000, or about 20 per cent of the levy. While this may sound good on the face of it, Sheriff Reid stated that the amount represented only about a dozen accounts, and it includes the taxes of the largest single taxpayer in Washington county, the Norfolk-Southern Railroad Company. This company pays annually about \$32,000, which means that only about \$3,000 has been collected from other taxpayers.

The sheriff is beginning his long uphill fight against time, and his job means that he must try to collect the other \$140,000 due from about 3,600 individual taxpayers by next May 1st, when delinquent property will be advertised. The amounts due range from about 10 cents to approximately \$7,000, and the individual taxpayers are located in almost all of the States in the Union. The largest amount of collections will probably be received in the next two months, although there are always a number who just manage to get in "under the wire" on May 1st.

APPOINTED BY NEW BOARD AT MEET MONDAY

Office of Chairman Put On Full Time Basis; Salary Is \$125 Per Month

One of the largest crowds ever attending the sessions of the county board of commissioners was present Monday, when the old board was retired and the new one inducted into office. Commissioners J. C. Spruill, chairman, and E. R. Lewis were present when the meeting began, and after hearing the minutes of the previous meeting read turned the reins of the county government over to the commissioners elected early last month. E. R. Lewis was the only member of the retiring board to be re-elected.

The new commissioners, George W. Hardison and O. R. Armstrong, took the oath of their office before C. V. W. Ausbon, clerk of the superior court, and the new board then proceeded to organize by electing George W. Hardison, of Plymouth, chairman.

The most important action of the board, from a standpoint of county-wide interest, was the appointment of a county accountant. Mr. J. C. Gatlin, who has held the office for the past four years, was an applicant for the position, and there were several people present urging his retention in the office. After a discussion, however, the commissioners voted to make the chairman of the board a full-time officer, and the duties now performed by the county auditor are to be handled by him. This action was taken as an economy measure, it was explained, the full-time chairman being paid a salary of \$125 per month, against \$200 per month formerly paid the county auditor.

It is understood that the new plan will be made effective January 1st, when Mr. Hardison will take over the duties now performed by Mr. Gatlin. It was explained that the board's action was in no wise a reflection on the past performance or ability of the present auditor, and a letter was read from the firm of J. M. Williams & Co., certified public accountants, of Raleigh, wherein it was stated that the office of county accountant as handled by Mr. Gatlin was handled "more efficiently than any other county we have ever audited." This firm makes an annual audit of the books of Washington and several other counties, and

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ASKS GOVERNOR OPPOSE CHANGES OF TEXT BOOKS

Z. V. Norman Says Change At Present Would Be Hardship to Many

The proposal of the State Board of Education to make sweeping changes in textbooks used in the schools of North Carolina has not met with a very hearty response in this section. In fact, educational authorities generally condemn the proposal, as it will mean that parents will have to buy new books, and at this particular time any added expense is hardly to be countenanced, especially if it can be avoided.

Zeb Vance Norman, of this city, representative from Washington County in the legislature that convenes in January, this week made public a letter he had written to Governor Gardner protesting against any general change in the textbooks now used. Mr. Norman's letter, in full, follows:

"I desire to approach you about a matter of much interest, which, I think, is very vital to a number of people in North Carolina. There seems to be a proposal by the State Board of Education to change the textbooks used in the public schools covering arithmetic, drawing and writing. I am always in favor of providing the best possible methods for teaching and training children, but owing to the present financial depression I think that it would be unwise to introduce new textbooks on these subjects when those used at present are sufficient. The cost to the people of North Carolina, if I am informed correctly, would probably be in excess of \$500,000, and there are many families in this community, and we are not unlike others, who were unable to buy school books for their children at the beginning of the present school term, and to require them now to buy new books would, in my opinion, be an unnecessary burden.

"It is hoped that you will use your influence to oppose any unnecessary changes in the school facilities at present that would impose further burdens upon the people of this State."

Program of Services At Episcopal Church

Rev. A. H. Marshall, Rector Church school, 10 a. m. Holy Communion and sermon, 11 o'clock a. m.