

# THE ROANOKE BEACON

And Washington County News

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## COMMEND WORK OF GATLING AS COUNTY AUDITOR

### Has Returned to Home in Creswell After Giving Up Duties Here

J. C. Gatling, formerly county auditor, has returned to his home in Creswell, after turning over the duties of his office to George W. Hardison, chairman of the county board of commissioners, on January 1. Mr. Gatling made a large number of friends in Plymouth during his four years in the office here, and they regret to see him leave. He has a drug store and moving picture theatre in Creswell, and although his plans are not definite, he said that he expected to resume active management of his enterprise there.

Mr. Gatling's work as county auditor has brought him a number of highly complimentary letters from county officials and others. The chairmen of the two boards of commissioners under which he served, the sheriff, county superintendent of education, and other officials with whom he came in contact as auditor have all commended his efficiency and character very highly. The firm of James M. Williams & Co., of Raleigh which makes an annual audit of the books of a large number of eastern counties, including Washington, recently wrote that Mr. Gatling had handled the affairs of county auditor more efficiently than in any other county they had ever audited.

The change in the office was ordered by the board of county commissioners at its December meeting, members of the board in discussing the action making it plain that the change was in no way a reflection on the efficiency of Mr. Gatling. The duties of chairman of the board of county commissioners and county auditor were consolidated, and the chairman made a full-time officer. The new plan is expected to prove much more economical to the county which is the reason the change was made.

Mr. George W. Hardison, chairman of the board of commissioners, took over the duties of county auditor Thursday of last week, and is rapidly "learning the ropes" of his new job. He stated that he was not planning to make any drastic changes in the bookkeeping systems now in use, and is busy familiarizing himself with the records and methods of the office.

## REPORT MADE BY HOME AGENT

### Sales on Curb Market Have Reached Total of \$7,481.06

Following is the report of Miss Pratt Covington, county home demonstration agent, for the month of December, as submitted to the board of county commissioners at its regular meeting here Monday, January 5: The subject for study during December was window shades. The club members were shown how attractive shades could be made at home for just a few cents. These shades are washable and sun fast and have proven to the women that have made them more economical than commercial shades.

On the 8th of December all the agents of the state attended the Agent's conference in Raleigh. This conference lasted for one week. During the time we were in Raleigh our entire program of work for next year was taken up with the state specialist, and the entire year's work outlined. There were some valuable lectures on Curb Marketing, and the agents felt that these lectures alone were worth the time spent at the Conference.

On the 10th day of December I helped the people of the county make the first shipment of eggs to Raleigh on the egg contract that I had gotten while in Raleigh. This contract pays us 38c per dozen for our eggs while the market price here is only 25c.

The contract was filled by club members over the county as much as possible. This was done in order to give different communities the benefit of the contract.

Last year through our curb market, egg shipments to Wilmington, Norfolk and other places, bazaars, etc. I helped the people of the county make \$7,383.12.

The total amount now sold on the curb market totals \$7,481.06.

## Infant Son of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Walker, Roper, Dies

Little Cyril Walker, Jr., infant son of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Walker, of Roper, died Thursday evening of last week at 10:20 o'clock, after a brief illness with pneumonia. Interment was made in the Methodist Episcopal cemetery, with Rev. J. Bascom Hurley, pastor, officiating. The pall-bearers were Messrs. Louis Edward Hassell, Tom Norman, Potter Dixon, and Jack Hassell. Mr. and Mrs. Walker have the heartfelt sympathy of the entire community.

## Representative Z. V. Norman Left Tuesday for Legislature

Zeb Vance Norman, Washington County representative in the General Assembly this year, left for the opening sessions at Raleigh Tuesday. He attended the caucus Tuesday night and supported Willis Smith, of Wake County, who was elected speaker. For the past several months, Mr. Norman has been engaged in a study of public questions likely to come before the legislature, particularly with reference to tax matters, and he hopes to sponsor several reforms that may be incorporated in revenue laws passed at the session.

Mr. Norman is making his headquarters in Raleigh at the Sir Walter Hotel, and he stated before leaving that those desiring to get in touch with him while there may communicate with him in care of the hotel. He plans to return to Plymouth each week-end during the session, and will be in his office here every Saturday and Monday until noon. Incidentally, the Washington County representative was assigned one of the best seats in the house, being placed next to the speaker's desk, where he will be in the center of everything that goes on.

## Twenty-One Criminal Cases Docketed for January Term Superior Court Next Week

### THREE DAYS TO BE DEVOTED TO CIVIL CALENDAR

#### Judge W. C. Harris, of Raleigh, to Preside; Only One-Week Term

There are 21 cases on the criminal docket for the January term of Washington County Superior Court, which begins here Monday morning. Judge W. C. Harris, of Raleigh, will preside while Solicitor Donnell Gilliam, of Tarboro, will represent the State in the various cases. Besides the criminal docket, there are 18 cases on the civil calendar, scheduled to be called Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

The term was originally scheduled for a two-week term, to begin Monday January 5, but due to the convening of the legislature in Raleigh this week, the first week was eliminated, and the session will last only through next Friday. There are very few cases of any general interest on either the civil or criminal docket.

The county recorder's court has figured largely in the cases on the criminal docket. Of the total of 21 cases, 14 go to the superior tribunal on appeal from the judgment of the lower court, while in five other instances probable cause for binding over was found in the recorder's court. The other two cases scheduled were continued at the July term last year.

A wide variety is offered in the 21 cases on the criminal docket. There are 3 for assault with deadly weapon, 3 for violation of traffic laws, 2 for assault with intent to kill, 2 for issuing worthless checks, 2 for assault, 2 for violations of the prohibition law, 2 for entering and larceny and one each for forgery, violation of the game law, larceny, false pretense, and robbery.

The first two days of the session will be devoted to the trial of criminal cases, following which there are 4 cases on the civil calendar for Wednesday, 6 cases for Thursday, and 8 cases for Friday. Divorce of the civil actions that are likely to be tried are cases for Friday. Divorce and motion cases will be called at the pleasure of the court. None of the civil actions that are likely to be tried are of more than passing interest.

## Mother of Rev. Hurley Dies Near Wadeville

D. A. Hurley of Plymouth, and J. Bascom Hurley, of Roper, returned last Tuesday from Wadeville, N. C. where their mother was buried on Sunday, December 28, after a long illness. She died on Saturday before at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Pinckney Love of Albemarle, N. C., with whom she had made her home for the last two years.

Seven children survive her. In addition to the ones mentioned above, W. W. Hurley, Jackson Springs, N. C.; J. R. Hurley, Wadeville, N. C.; Rev. B. T. Hurley, Fayetteville, N. C.; G. K. Hurley, Oakboro, N. C., and nineteen grand children.

A good mother is gone, but will ever live in the hearts of all those who knew her. May God ever bless her sacred memory. No truer Christian ever breathed the breath of life.—Reported.

## Will Prosecute Drivers Who Pass School Buses

Mr. J. W. Norman, county superintendent of public instruction, stated this week that henceforth names of car drivers passing school buses while they are receiving or discharging pupils will be handed to the solicitor of the recorder's court. The superintendent said he had given sufficient warning about this violation of the law, and in the interest of the safety of children being transported in school buses, the law is to be invoked.

## FEWER LICENSES TO MARRY ISSUED IN 1930 THAN 1929

### Decrease of 43 Per Cent in Licenses Issued To Colored People

The falling off in all lines of business endeavor during 1930 is reflected in the number of marriage licenses issued during the twelve-month period also, it is shown by a survey of the records in the office of Mrs. Addie L. Brinkley, register of deeds. During 1929 a total of 101 marriage licenses were issued, 47 to white couples and 54 to colored. In 1930 the total declined to 77, of which 46 were applied for by white and 31 by colored couples.

The decrease in the number of permits issued to members of the Negro race is very marked, falling from 54 to 31, a decline of nearly 43 per cent. The white race almost held its own, the decrease amounting to only a fraction over 2 per cent, the figures being 47 and 46 for 1929 and 1930, respectively. The percentage of decrease on the total issued for members of both races is nearly 24 per cent.

In only four months of 1930 were as many or more licenses issued than for the corresponding month of the preceding year. The figures for February and October of each year were the same for corresponding periods, while more licenses were issued in June and December of 1930 than for the same months in 1929. All of the other eight months of 1930 were considerably under the same months for the previous year.

The general scarcity of money brought about by the depression in business during the year is believed to be responsible for the decline in the number of marriages. This is particularly true where negroes are concerned especially since the fee for the issuance of a license has been raised from \$3 to \$5. Fantastic as it may seem, it is nevertheless a fact that many colored couples apply for license to marry when they have barely enough money to pay the fee. In any number of cases the officiating minister or justice has to get along without his fee while the blissfully happy and absolutely "busted" couple proceed on their way. The requirement of medical examinations for the contracting parties constitutes another determining influence to the number of licenses issued to colored people, and they simply manage to get along without the formality of the marriage in a number of instances.

A comparison of the number of licenses issued, by months, during 1929 and 1930 is presented in the following table:

	1929		1930	
	White	Colored	White	Colored
January	6	5	11	5
February	0	3	3	2
March	2	5	7	3
April	7	4	11	2
May	8	3	11	3
June	4	4	8	4
July	4	7	11	5
August	2	3	5	3
September	2	6	8	3
October	3	5	8	6
November	3	5	8	5
December	6	4	10	3
Totals	47	54	101	46

## YOUNG GIRL DIES SUDDENLY

### Elsie Jean Lane of Wenona, Is Victim of Uremic Poisoning

Elsie Jean Lane, 21 years old, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Lane, of Wenona, died at Park View Hospital Saturday afternoon about 3:15, after an illness that lasted only a few hours. Uremic poisoning was assigned as the cause of her death.

Miss Lane, who was a student nurse at Park View Hospital, in Rocky Mt., was stricken some time during Friday night at her home in Wenona, where she was spending a two-day holiday. A physician was called immediately and the young girl was ordered taken to the Rocky Mount hospital, dying about an hour after reaching there.

The young girl was a native of Indiana, it is understood, her parents having moved to the Wenona section about 10 years ago. She was well known and very popular in Plymouth, where she went to school, graduating here last year. Her sudden death came as a shock to many friends throughout the county.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday afternoon at the Christian Church in Wenona by Rev. Charlie Lee, of Hyde Court, the pastor, assisted by Rev. Conley Grier, of the local Christian church. Interment was made in the Windley cemetery, near Plymouth.

## Township Boards of Assessors Begin Field Work Wednesday

### YOUNG CHERRY MAN KILLED IN AUTO ACCIDENT

#### Leslie Davenport, 27, Dies When Car Crashes Into Wagon Near Norfolk

Leslie Davenport, 27, of Cherry, was fatally injured Thursday night of last week in an automobile-wagon collision on the Great Bridge Boulevard, just west of Edmonds Corners, near Norfolk, when a car in which he was a passenger, driven by W. R. Olds, of Dozier's Corners, crashed into a wagon drawn by two mules and driven by a negro whose name was not learned.

Both of the mules were killed instantly, and the car and wagon were described as being almost total wrecks. Just what caused the accident could not be learned definitely. Norfolk County Officers E. N. Grimes and J. M. Brickhouse, who conducted an investigation, quoted Olds as saying that he did not see the wagon until he was practically right on it.

Olds was slightly injured, while F. G. Davenport, half-brother of Leslie who also was a passenger in the car, was not injured.

Officer Brickhouse said that Leslie Davenport received the injuries resulting later in his death when the force of the collision rammed the front end of the wagon through the automobile's windshield. Davenport was badly injured about the head, and his skull was fractured. Funeral services were held at the home near Cherry Saturday.

## STATISTICS ON RELIEF WORK

### Dinner Furnished to 185 People in County on Christmas Day

One hundred and eighty-five people in Washington County received their Christmas Dinner as a result of the Salvation Army relief work here during the holidays, according to figures furnished by the officer in charge of the local post. A total of 29 baskets were distributed Christmas Day, while 165 articles of wearing apparel, 29 pairs of shoes, and 60 different toys were also given to the needy in the county.

The workers were handicapped somewhat by having only a few days before Christmas to make their investigations, but the generous response of local people to the appeal for aid made it possible for Mr. and Mrs. Brewer, in charge of the post here, to devote most of their time to actual relief work. The scope of their activities is rapidly being extended throughout the county, the lower part of which they were unable to reach before Christmas.

It is believed that with this agency functioning, conditions in the county will materially improve, and very little actual suffering is anticipated during the remainder of the winter.

## Slightly Hurt in Unusual Auto Accident Last Week

Mrs. Joe Oliver sustained a number of painful bruises about the face Wednesday night of last week when the car in which she was riding, driven by her husband, was stopped suddenly when a cow ran on the road in front of them. She was thrown against the instrument panel of the car by the sudden application of the brakes. The accident occurred near the Philip Ambrose farm, near Roper, and Mr. Oliver said he was driving about 40 or 45 miles an hour when the cow ran out on the road right in front of him.

## Lessees of Fishery Are Visitors Here

Messrs. B. A. Griffin, of Milwaukee, Wis., and W. A. Mercer, of Whitestone, Va., were in town Tuesday and Wednesday of this week in the interest of leasing the Hampton Fishery, on Roanoke River, near here, for the spring fishing season. These men operated the fishery last year, but stated this week they did not know definitely yet what kind of arrangement would be made this season.

## Extension Circular Tells How to Feed Swine

How to grow and feed hogs for market and for ton litters is the subject of Extension circular 181 recently prepared by W. W. Shay, swine extension specialist, and available for the asking from the agricultural editor at State College.

## County Outlook Meet Held Here Thursday

Due to the fact that The Beacon is printed on Thursday, it was impossible to get an article on the county outlook meeting held in the courthouse here Thursday. The county home and farm agents, who were in charge of arrangements, stated Wednesday that they were looking for a large gathering. The outlook for agriculture during the present year was the topic for discussion, and two extension workers from Raleigh were here for the session. County home demonstration club members served a live-at-home luncheon to all attending after the meeting adjourned.

## REGULAR MEET COUNTY BOARD FIRST MONDAY

### Routine Reports Received And Approved; Little of Importance

Very little of importance came before the county board of commissioners at their regular meeting here Monday, and the members were principally occupied during the session with the consideration of accounts against the county, requests for aid from the poor, and other routine matters. All the members of the board were present, with Chairman George W. Hardison presiding. The other members are E. R. Lewis, of Roper; and O. R. Armstrong, of Creswell.

Proceedings of the board were as follows: The report of Miss Covington, county home demonstration agent was received and approved.

It was ordered that the valuation of 500 acres of the Dr. W. D. Bowen land for the year 1930 be placed at \$5,750, the value set in 1927. Through an error, this property had been improperly valued on the 1930 books.

Miss Edna Nurney was recommended for appointment as registrar of vital statistics in Plymouth Township by the board after it was learned that Mr. George W. Waters, who had been previously recommended, did not care to accept the position.

The report of Treasurer Edw. L. Blount was checked and approved.

December was a poor month for justices of the peace in the county, reports made by the following indicating that no fees had been received by them: W. O. Norman, M. F. Davenport, and J. C. Gatling.

An order was passed by the board fixing a minimum of 8 hours to constitute a day's work for tax assessors of the various townships.

## EXTEND THANKS FOR DONATIONS

### Envoy and Mrs. Brewer Acknowledge Receipt Of Many Gifts

The Salvation Army wishes to thank the many people in Plymouth and Washington County for their gifts of groceries, clothing, toys, and fruits, which thereby made it possible to spread joy to many people who otherwise would have had perhaps a very "blue" Christmas. Also we are very grateful to the boys class of the M. E. church, taught by Mr. Burgess, for their assistance in the distribution of their twenty-nine county baskets. The city high school, the First Baptist church, the Christian church contributed a wide variety of gifts which were very acceptable and for which we are truly thankful.

Class No. 8 of the Methodist Church, taught by Mr. D. V. Clayton put a nice dinner of beef in the baskets. Mrs. Lucas, Route 90, sent 2 bushels of potatoes, 2 pounds of pork meat, 3 nice hens; and many other people sent numerous gifts which came in handy to make the season a pleasant one to several score of people, grown-ups as well as children.

The Colored High school sent in a fine assortment of Groceries, clothing and cash, and we thank them. Last, but not least we want to thank the Roanoke Beacon for their able assistance in calling the people's attention to our needs, and fine support of our drive for funds, which was a great success. Again we say God bless you and keep you in peace of spirit and mind through-out the New Year. Truly a worthwhile work was put on by your generosity.

## PLAN OUTLINED AT MEET HELD HERE TUESDAY

### Classification Is Expected To Require From 20 To 45 Days

Members of the township boards of tax assessors met here Tuesday at the courthouse, with County Tax Supervisor John W. Darden in charge of the meeting, and made plans for beginning their work in Washington County. Actual field work for the members of the boards was begun Wednesday, and it is thought that the task will require from 20 to 45 days, depending on the size of the townships.

While general plans to be followed throughout the county were outlined at the meeting Tuesday Mr. Darden stated that each township was regarded as a separate unit, and that the individual boards would plan the work in their own townships. The meeting Tuesday was attended by every member of the township boards except Capt. C. E. Mizell, who was prevented from being present by sickness.

The tax supervisor said the general trend of the assessors would be to place conservative valuations on farm lands, while it is hoped to get timbered lands on the tax books at a more fair value than it is believed has been done in the past. Mr. Darden does not believe that timbered land has been valued as much for taxable purposes as has cultivated land, comparatively speaking, and it is the purpose of the assessors to equalize this as much as possible.

An extra effort is to be made to classify land on a common basis throughout the county, so that the same valuation may be put on property of equal worth, regardless of the section of the county it is in. To this end, members of the various township boards will be transferred from one township to another so that they can get a working knowledge of how each group is proceeding. Mr. Darden will be at the call of any of the township groups at all times when special problems are met, and he also plans to divide his time with the various boards.

It was also stated that the assessors would cooperate with the township boards of adjoining counties in fixing the classification of property along the boundary lines between the counties. This is being done to insure equality in valuation throughout the State and to prevent property on one side of a county line being listed at a different figure than the same type of land just across the line in another county. The assessors from the different counties will meet at the county line and fix the classification jointly.

No valuation is placed on property by the assessors while they are on the ground. The land is simply classified, and the valuation will be worked out at a meeting of the assessors after all the land in the county has been gone over and classified.

## Services Announced For Roper and Pleasant Grove

The following program of services for churches of the Roper Charge, Methodist Episcopal Church, for Sunday, January 11, was announced yesterday by Rev. C. Bascom Hurley, pastor.

Sunday school, Roper, 10 a. m., F. D. Wilson superintendent.  
Morning service, Roper, 11 o'clock.  
Service at Pleasant Grove church, 7:30 p. m.

The pastor urges members to begin the New Year by attending church and Sunday school services every Sunday. All are cordially invited to worship at these services.

## Program of Services At Christian Church

Rev. Conley Grier, minister.  
Bible school, 9:45 a. m., John W. Darden, superintendent.  
Communion, 11 a. m.  
Sermon, 11:15 a. m.  
Christian Endeavor, 6:30 p. m., program in charge of Group No. 2.  
Sermon at 7:30 p. m.

## Firemen Have Oyster Roast New Year's Eve

Members of the local fire department started the New Year off last week by having an oyster roast. Practically all of the members of the department were present for the feast, which did not begin until after 10 o'clock last Wednesday night, New Year's Eve. Several bushels of the bivalves were on hand, and the firemen had an enjoyable evening.