

THE ROANOKE BEACON

And Washington County News

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LAW IS PROPOSED TO LOWER COST OF FORECLOSING

Is First Bill Introduced by Representative Z. V. Norman

Representative Zeb Vance Norman, of Washington County, introduced his first bill in the house of representatives at Raleigh last week. The full title of the measure is "A Bill to be Entitled An Act to Repeal Chapter 221 of the Public Laws of 1927, Chapters 204 and 334 of the Public Laws of 1929, and to Simplify and Reduce Costs of Foreclosure of Certificates of Tax Sale."

In support of his bill, Representative Norman cited an instance happening here wherein certain property was sold for unpaid taxes amounting to less than \$2, and when the costs of foreclosing were added the total was over \$30. His bill would simplify proceedings by requiring the owner of the tax certificate to advertise and sell the property in the same manner as mortgage deeds are now foreclosed, and it forbids the addition of any commissions or attorneys' fees to the bill of costs.

Individuals owning tax certificates are given three years in which to begin foreclosure proceedings, while municipal corporations are allowed only two years before instituting foreclosure. Action is barred after that time by the terms of the proposed law.

The bill proposed by Mr. Norman would eliminate the civil action now required by the statute before foreclosure proceedings are instituted. The measure was ordered printed and referred to the house finance committee. The representative stated while here this week that members of the committee had told him that of the several bills introduced his was considered the most favorable.

Commenting on the bill, Mr. Norman said that "the sheriff or any other tax collectors of any county or town is required to notify the land owner immediately after the sale for delinquent taxes the name of the purchaser of his land and the amount necessary to redeem the same. The holder of the tax certificate is likewise required to notify the land owner ten days before he begins his foreclosure."

"The manner of foreclosures is that the holder of the tax certificate advertise the land in a newspaper and at the courthouse door 30 days naming the day of sale, the year listed for taxation and clearly describing the land. Of course, no sale can be had until the one year period for redemption has expired. The sale is reported to the clerk, stands open ten days and if no increase of bid, a decree is entered by the clerk. The bill provides that the clerk's fee shall not exceed \$1.50 for the decree and reports. The bill also provides that no attorney fees and no commissions shall be charged as a part of the expense of foreclosure."

"In the event the land owner desires to protest against the sale of his land he files his protest in writing with the Clerk of the Superior Court who issues an order suspending the sale, notifying the holder of the tax certificate, and transferring the matter to the civil cases. The bill further provides that a penalty of 12 per cent is charged for the first year and 6 per cent thereafter."

Three Marriage Licenses Issued During January

Only three marriage licenses were issued in this county during January by Mrs. Addie L. Brinkley, register of deeds, the number being among the smallest for any month on record here. In January of last year, a total of 8 licenses were issued, 5 to colored and 3 to white couples. Two of the permits issued last month were to white people, while there was only one colored couple applying.

Licenses were issued to the following during the month:

White
Lyons Hassell, of Tyrrell County, and Mildred Lilley, of Washington County.

Alton Mizelle, of Creswell, and Mae Matilda Spruill, of Creswell.

Colored
Vanderbush Wright and Alexander, of Creswell.

Entertainment at Creswell School Building Tuesday

A full evening of really enjoyable entertainment is promised all who attend a program to be presented at the Creswell High School Auditorium next Tuesday evening, February 10, at 7:30 o'clock. Besides a concert by a harmonica band, which is expected to feature the entertainment, there will be a one-act play lasting 15 minutes, several individual contests, the nature of which were not disclosed, as well as concert playing, and a number of selections by a male trio that promises "barbershop harmony." The public is cordially invited to attend.

Tomato Seed and Contracts Received; 1,000 Acres Signed

Blank contracts and a shipment of tomato seed were received this week by Mr. John W. Darden from Mr. Carroll Crockett, who will operate the canning plant here again this year. Mr. Darden said Wednesday that plant beds should be prepared immediately in order to get an early start and asks farmers to see him who are interested.

Approximately 1,000 acres have been contracted for to date by Mr. Darden, who is in charge of Mr. Crockett's interests here at this time. In addition to the acreage signed up in Washington County,

several farmers from adjoining counties are going to try the crop this year. A number of Pitt County farmers have made contracts for 5 or 6 acres, the crop to be delivered to the cannery here. They are trying the crop out in the nature of an experiment.

Seed is furnished to the growers by the cannery and the amount is deducted when delivery of tomatoes begins. Mr. Darden or County Agent R. E. Dunning will be glad to furnish details as to prices, terms of the contract, and other particulars to any farmers interested.

T. L. Satterthwaite, Leading Farmer and Former County Commissioner, Dies Thursday

A Real Plan Offered For Farmers' Relief

Many suggestions for "farm relief" have been advanced during the past year or two, and reductions have been considered in this office and that office as a helping measure, but the real plan for relief was advanced in a sermon preached by Rev. Sam Smith, a well-known negro minister in the Mount Olive section a few days ago.

Before his assembled flock on a recent Sunday morning when everything was bright except the "times," the minister preached the following:

"Put your faith in God, your family in the field, your Ford under the shed and grow what feed you need."

And that about covers the much offered advice by editors, high-salaried economists and "the man about town."

TRUSTEES FOR LOCAL SCHOOL ARE ELECTED

Dr. McGowan and E. H. Stier Are New Members Of Board

The county board of education held its regular monthly meeting here Monday of this week, the principal business before it being the election of trustees for the Plymouth Graded School, the terms of two members of which had expired, while a third had resigned. The meeting was held in the office of County Superintendent J. W. Norman.

E. H. Liverman, whose term expired in April, 1930, was reelected for six years, his new term expiring in 1936. A. H. Stier was elected for a five year term, also ending in 1936. Mr. Stier succeeds Dr. T. L. Bray, who recently resigned from the board. Dr. Claudius R. McGowan was elected for a four year term, ending in 1935, succeeding R. G. Hardison, whose term has expired.

The other members of the local board of trustees are as follows: P. H. Darden, chairman; D. V. Clayton, O. H. Lyon, and J. S. Norman.

MISS NORA DIXON DIES SATURDAY

Funeral Held From Home Near Here Sunday Afternoon

Funeral services for the late Miss Nora S. Dixon, age fifty four years, well known and highly respected woman who resided on the Long Ridge road about six miles from Plymouth, were held Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock from the Dixon home, Rev. J. R. Cantrell conducting the funeral rites. Burial was made in the family plot in Jackson's Cemetery.

The funeral was largely attended by relatives and friends of the deceased and an extensive floral tribute spoke in eloquent terms of the high esteem in which she was held by the people of this county.

Miss Dixon died on Saturday, after being ill for one week, pleurisy being given as the cause of her death. She was a native of Washington County and one of the most faithful workers of the Free Will Baptist Church, of which she had long been a member.

She is survived by one sister and two brothers all of this county; Samuel Dixon, Leonard Dixon and Miss Martha Dixon.

COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS HOLD MEET MONDAY

Order Purchase of Cow for County Home; Other Proceedings

The meeting of the county board of commissioners Monday of this week was more or less a routine affair, and very little attention was attracted by the session, spectators and hangers-on being quite noticeable by their absence. As a result, the commissioners transacted the business with dispatch and were in session for a much shorter time than usual. Chairman George W. Hardison presided, and both the other members, O. R. Armstrong and E. R. Lewis, were present.

Partha Green, colored, of Skinnersville Township, was allowed \$5 worth of necessities per month. It was brought out that her husband is serving a term on the county roads and that she has no means of support for herself and 11 children. A deputy sheriff who investigated the case stated that he found three dried herrings and a small quantity of salt in the kitchen of her home, and this represented all they had in the way of food.

The bond of George W. Hardison, as security for the collection of delinquent taxes, was submitted to and accepted by the board members.

Only one justice of the peace report was received, that from W. A. Swain, and he reported collecting no fees during the months of December and January.

The board passed an order relieving members of the Plymouth volunteer fire department, to the maximum number of 25, from the payment of police taxes as an expression of appreciation for their services to the county.

One of the recommendations made by the grand juries at recent terms of superior court was complied with when the board ordered that a cow be purchased for the county home.

A. L. Moore, who was appointed janitor of the courthouse at the December meeting of the board, submitted his resignation, on account of ill health, and J. H. Hamilton was named in his stead, the salary to be \$60 per month.

ASK INSPECTION OF SCHOOL AT CRESWELL SOON

Leaking Roof Causes Some Concern As To Safety Of Building

Rev. Williams, rector of the Episcopal church at Creswell and Mrs. Harry Walker, president of the parent-teacher association there, appeared before the county board of commissioners at their meeting here Monday and asked that body to urge the State Insurance Department to have an inspection made of Creswell school building to determine whether it is a safe structure or not. The County Board of Education requested the State Department to send an inspector last March, and one was promised, but so far no inspection has been made.

The roof of the building, which was erected in 1917, has never been satisfactory, Superintendent J. W. Norman said yesterday. Despite repairs made almost every year, it continues to leak, the water causing the wood to rot jointly. The superintendent said that old joints and studding were removed and new ones put in last year, and he believes the building is entirely safe, but it is hoped to have an insurance inspector examine it thoroughly during the next few weeks.

Mr. Norman is in receipt of a letter from the State Department promising that the building will be examined within the course of a few days. It is probable that the inspector will make recommendations as to the type of repairs to be made. A brand new roof was put on the building during the past summer.

If Groundhog Is Weather Prophet, Then Look Out

If the groundhog came out Monday at 12 o'clock, as he is supposed to do, and if there is anything to his prognostications, then we are certainly in for a spell of bad weather, because the sun was shining plenty bright enough to cast a shadow at that time. However, few folks are evidencing any concern over the prospects for any more disagreeable weather than they would have if the sun had not been shining at 12 o'clock Monday.

The Jamesville fisherman did not wait until groundhog day this year to get "the key to the smokehouse," or first herring from the Roanoke. He went out Tuesday of last week and caught not one, but three herrings, which means that there will be a couple of spare "keys" this year, and they will probably be needed, too.

SPEAR-SPRUILL

Alton Spear, son of Mr. Jake Spear and Miss May Spruill, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Spruill were quietly married at the home of Mr. Tom Davenport Wednesday evening January 28.

Jerry Sawyer Killed in Auto Accident at Roper Wednesday

RECORDER HAD ONLY 3 CASES LAST TUESDAY

Three Young Colored Boys Bound Over for Second Degree Burglary

Recorder Edward L. Owens had only a few cases on the docket Tuesday, and the session of court lasted only about half the day. All of the defendants were negroes. Only one recruit was added to Mr. Basnight's forces at the prison camp, but he will spend the next six months there. Cases disposed of follow:

Chris Norman, 15, Walter Moore, 16, Charles Norman, 63, and Wiley Norman, 16, were charged with assault with a deadly weapon and doing serious bodily harm. The case was the aftermath of a free-for-all engaged in recently by the four defendants, during which Charles Norman was very nearly scalped by some of the younger participants in the affray. The three Normans were found not guilty and discharged, while Moore was given a six-months sentence on the county roads on the assault with deadly weapon charge.

John Towe, 14, James Williams, 15, and Joe Jeannette, 14, young colored boys of Plymouth, were called to answer to charge of entering and larceny. These boys were arrested by Chief of Police P. W. Brown early Saturday morning after a series of burglaries here recently. The homes of Messrs. A. H. Stier, B. G. Campbell, and Rev. R. G. L. Edwards were entered at various times during the past week, and a number of small articles of value, as well as some money, were stolen. Chief Brown, after an investigation, arrested the three boys, secured confessions, and managed to recover part of the loot. The recorder found probable cause in the matter and ordered them held for the July term of superior court. It is probable that they will be tried then on charges of second degree burglary.

J. J. Johnson was booked on a bad check, and after being found guilty prayer for judgment was continued to March 3, 1931.

Notice was given to the teachers that owing to the slowness of taxpayers to pay their 1930 taxes, the county might be unable to pay them their full salaries at the end of each month. The county superintendent advised them, however, that they would be paid as much as half in any event, and that they would receive the full amount just as soon as possible. This course has not been resorted to so far by the county, and the hope was expressed that such action would not be necessary.

FIRE DESTROYS MILL AND GIN

Owned by Magnolia Land and Lumber Co.; On Lake Phelps

The cotton gin and saw mill on Lake Phelps, near Creswell, owned by the Magnolia Land and Lumber Co., was completely destroyed by fire last Friday night. The blaze was discovered about 11:30 p. m., but had gained so much headway that efforts to extinguish it proved futile. No estimate as to the amount of the loss has been made. Several hogs and a number of bales of cotton were also consumed by the flames.

The Magnolia company is owned by a group of Ohio men, it is understood, and it is not known whether or not the gin and mill will be rebuilt. Although not definitely known, it is believed that the blaze may have been started by the spread of brush fires.

Donations of Old Furniture Asked by Fire Department

Members of the local volunteer fire department are asking for donations of old living room furniture with which to "fix up" and make their headquarters more comfortable. At the present time, they particularly want a davenport or settee of some description, and they will appreciate any other article of furniture that they can use. Prospective donors are asked to get in touch with any member of the department.

Town Council To Hold Regular Meet Tonight

The Town Council will hold its regular meeting tonight. City Clerk M. W. Spruill said yesterday that there was no business of especial importance that he knew of to be brought up, and it is probable that routine will occupy most of the council's time.

Home Agent Announces Schedule for Next Week

Miss Pratt Covington, county home demonstration agent, announces her schedule for the week beginning Monday, February 9, as follows: Monday, Scuppernon; Tuesday, Cherry; Wednesday, Albemarle; Thursday, Wenona; Friday, Plymouth; Saturday, curb market.

Killed in Auto Accident



Jerry A. Sawyer, county attorney who was instantly killed Wednesday afternoon when his automobile struck a bridge railing at Roper. Funeral services were held yesterday.

LOSES CONTROL OF CAR WHILE ON SHARP CURVE

Was County Attorney and Former Recorder; Final Services Thursday

Jerry A. Sawyer, attorney for Washington County, and formerly judge of the recorder's court, was instantly killed at the eastern edge of Roper Wednesday afternoon, when he lost control of his car while rounding the curve coming into the town and swerved into the railing of a bridge across a small canal, the car turning over several times. When the car turned over, Mr. Sawyer was catapulted through the top, landing on his head nearly 50 feet away from the highway. His skull was crushed and neck broken. The car, a Chevrolet coupe, was completely demolished.

Eye-witnesses to the accident stated that the young lawyer was thrown at least 15 feet in the air and away from the road. Mr. Sawyer had been down in the lower part of the county on business and was returning to Plymouth when the accident occurred. He was alone at the time. News of the accident shocked the entire county, as Mr. Sawyer was one of the most popular young men in the section and stood high in the esteem of people of the section.

Born in Tyrrell county, at Travis, in February, 1902, he was the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Sawyer. After attending public school at Travis, he graduated at Wake Forest College in 1923 with the degree of A. B. He studied law at Wake Forest and Columbia University, New York, receiving his license from the supreme court January 28, 1924.

After receiving his law license, Mr. Sawyer practiced for two years in Columbia, at one time being solicitor of the recorder's court there. He left there and practiced in Windsor for about a year, coming to Plymouth in 1927. He had built up a considerable practice here and was highly respected by members of the bar here for his ability. He was appointed judge of the recorder's court here in March, 1929, succeeding Zeb Vance Norman, who resigned. He served in this capacity until last December, after which he was appointed county attorney, which position he held at the time of his death. Mr. Sawyer became associated with Van B. Martin, jr., in the practice of law here last August.

He was married in 1927 to Miss Mary Spruill, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Spruill, of Skinnersville township, who survives him. He is also survived by his father, W. W. Sawyer, of Travis, Tyrrell county, and several brothers and sisters.

Funeral services were held at his home here yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock and were conducted by Rev. J. R. Cantrell, pastor of the Baptist church, of which he was a member, assisted by Rev. R. G. L. Edwards, pastor of the Methodist church. Interment was made in the Episcopal cemetery.

Pall-bearers were Van B. Martin, C. L. Bailey, W. L. Whitley, L. E. Hassell, J. K. Reid, E. D. Carstarphen, E. L. Owens, and R. E. Dunning. Honorary pall-bearers included G. W. Hardison, J. W. Darden, C. V. W. Ausbon, H. E. Beam, J. B. Edmondson, A. D. Bassinger, A. L. Alexander, Dr. Claudius McGowan, P. W. Brown, T. D. Woodley, of Plymouth; Capt. C. E. Mizelle, of Roper; S. S. Woodley, Nat Meekins, J. E. Reynolds, Earl Cahoon, and Floyd Cahoon, of Columbia; and W. D. Peal, of Creswell, and W. H. Booker.

Mrs. Beatrice Ambrose Is Victim of Pneumonia

Last rites for Mrs. Beatrice Ambrose, wife of Martin Ambrose, who died at her home near here on Sunday, were held at the local Christian Church on Monday afternoon, February 2, at 3 o'clock, with Rev. Roy Respass, officiating. The deceased was the daughter of William Chaplin. For the last few weeks she had been ill with a severe case of pneumonia.

Surviving is her husband, five small children; one brother, James Chaplin, of Rocky Mount; and two sisters, Mrs. Will Perisher and Mrs. Jackson Edwards. The interment took place at the family graveyard.

Wakefield Mowery, of Greensboro, was the guest of Mrs. W. F. Ausbon on Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Gurkin and son, Warren, were in Norfolk for the weekend.