

THE ROANOKE BEACON

And Washington County News

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

Advertisers will find Beacon and News columns a latch-key to 1,100 Washington County homes.

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MANY FARMERS BEGIN PLANTING IRISH POTATOES

Will Continue for About 10 Days; Less Fertilizer Being Used

A large number of Washington County farmers are busy this week planting Irish potatoes, especially in the lower end of the county, where there will be considerable acreage devoted to the crop. Many farmers were engaged in hauling seed and fertilizer last week, and although some have already completed their planting the peak will probably be reached the latter part of this week or the first of next, weather permitting. The planting will probably continue for the next ten days.

Potatoes constitute one of the major crops in this county although farmers in the section do not go in for them on an extensive scale as is done in Tyrrell county. Columbia is the center of one of the largest Irish potato producing areas in the State, and many farmers in the lower part of Washington market their crop there. Creswell also ships a considerable quantity during the season.

Last year potato farmers did fairly well with their crop, prices ranging from \$3 to more than \$5 per barrel, depending upon the time of marketing. Some farmers who got their product on the market early in the season realized averages of \$5 per barrel, although it is thought the general average throughout this section was around \$3.50. This is considered a fair price, and practically all who made even average yields realized a nice profit.

According to a number of observers, less commercial fertilizer than usual is being used, and although a larger acreage is expected the yield may be held down to about the same as it was last year. However, if the acreage is materially larger than it was last year, the price may be affected, particularly early in the season.

FATHER AND SON FEAST TONIGHT

Young Tar Heel Farmers Club of Creswell Plans Barbecue

The Young Tar Heel Farmers Club, of Creswell, composed of members of the agriculture class in the school there, is planning to give a barbecue Friday night of this week in the school building. The affair is to be in the nature of a "father and son" get-together meeting, special guests being fathers of the boys in the class, members of the Creswell school board, and County Superintendent J. W. Norman.

Mr. C. H. Rabon, teacher of the class, in making the announcement of the barbecue, stated that the food is to be prepared by members of the Creswell school board, and County Superintendent J. W. Norman.

Mr. C. H. Rabon, teacher of the class, in making the announcement of the barbecue, stated that the food is to be prepared by members of the Parent-Teacher Association of Creswell, while the members of the club are providing the finances. An enjoyable event is anticipated, both by the boys and by the invited guests.

TWO COUNTY BILLS PASSED

One Relates To Drainage Districts; Other to Town Of Plymouth

Two bills introduced by Representative Zeb Vance Norman were passed in the legislature last week, both of them being purely local measures. The bill to empower sale of drainage district lands for delinquent drainage assessments in Washington and Hyde counties was passed by the senate Friday, it having been previously passed by the house.

The other bill, introduced by Mr. Norman last Wednesday, repealing the law creating the Plymouth Power and Light Commission, was passed by the House Friday. It now goes to the Senate, where prompt passage is expected. This bill was introduced by Mr. Norman at the request of the town council, there being no work for the commission to do since the sale of the power franchise. Members of the commission resigned several months ago.

Roper Boys Lose First Game of Present Season

Last Thursday afternoon, the Roper quint lost its first game of the season by a score of 20 to 15 to the Farm Life School, of Martin county.

It was a blow to the Roper boys to lose their first game of the season at the hands of the Farm Life cagers as they had previously defeated this team by a score of 22 to 2. The boys have won twelve games this season.

Complete Reading of Local Water Meters for First Time

The first reading of the recently installed water meters was completed last week by City Clerk Moye W. Spruill. The meters will again be read on the 16th of March, and bills will be mailed out the first of April based on the amount of water consumed instead of at the old flat rate. Water consumers will then be given a 10 per cent discount if the bills are paid by the 10th of the month, while service will be discontinued if they are not paid by the 15th.

Mr. Spruill stated that practically all water consumers had made

needed repairs to water lines, although there were a few who had to be warned to have leaks repaired within the next 30 days. The consumption of water has fallen off considerably here since the meters were installed, this being the first opportunity many of them had ever had of checking up on the amount of water they were using. Formerly it was impossible to keep the water tank full with the pump running at full speed 24 hours daily. The pumps are now shut down entirely 4 to 6 hours each day, and are kept running at minimum speed the balance of the time.

Ice Plant Will Begin Operation in March

Concern Will Pay 29c Pound for Sour Cream

Miss Pratt Covington, county home demonstration agent, announced yesterday that she had received an order from a creamery concern offering to buy sour cream at 29 cents per pound. She is anxious to get in touch with all who are interested in this offer and asks that they see her at once so that arrangements for shipping may be made. All transportation charges will be paid by the concern making the offer, and checks will be mailed on the 10th and 25th of each month.

ERECT BUILDING FOR NEW PUMPS

Installation of New Equipment Here Will Require About Three Weeks

Work was started this week on a building to house the new water pumping equipment recently ordered by the town. The building is to be located between the water tank and the river, and a crew of workmen is engaged in digging a pit for the foundation. The machinery and equipment arrived Monday, and it is believed that the pumps will be working within the next three weeks.

The floor of the pump house is to be about 8 feet below the ground surface, this being necessary in order to keep the level of the water above the pumps so that no priming will be necessary when the pumps are started. The house is to be about 10 by 12 feet in size. The floor and walls below the ground are to be of concrete, while brick will probably be used for that part of the walls above the level of the ground.

The equipment includes two pumps, one of 250-gallon capacity and the other of 500 gallons, one motor, and one 15-horsepower gasoline engine. The motor-driven pump will be used to keep the water tank full under normal conditions while the gas engine pump will be available for any emergency should the power fail for any reason.

The new equipment can be operated much cheaper than the steam pumps now being used, particularly so since water meters have been installed throughout the town and considerably less water is being used than heretofore. Mr. Dan Bassinger is supervising the installation of the machinery and equipment, which it is estimated will require about three weeks.

SEAPLANE OVER HERE SATURDAY

Local People Turn Eyes To Sky To See Latest Type of Aircraft

Local people turned their eyes skyward last Saturday afternoon when an airplane, of the latest amphibian type, circled the town and continued westward, toward Williamston.

Although the ship flew low enough so that her type could be easily determined by the large pontoons under her fuselage and the unusual type of "tail" the numbers on the underwings were not visible.

Local citizens who saw the plane as it passed over, expressed the opinion that the flying machine was probably from Hampton Roads, and was on a scouting flight. The ship was of a considerably larger size than the ordinary land plane.

IS MODERN AND COMPLETE IN EVERY RESPECT

Installation of Machinery And Equipment Almost Completed

Work is being rushed to completion on the ice plant being constructed here by Mr. A. J. Riddle, and he stated yesterday that the first tests of the equipment would probably be made by the latter part of next week. He hopes to be ready for operation on a large scale by March 10, and is making plans to begin supplying ice throughout this section by that time.

Eight men, comprising the crew from the York Parnell factory, which is furnishing the equipment for the plant, have been engaged for the past two months in putting in the machinery, brine tanks, etc., and supervising the construction of the building. Mr. Riddle has also had a force of workmen erecting the building for some time. When completed, the plant will be the most modern in this section of the State, and represents an investment of around \$30,000, it is understood.

The building is constructed of brick, and is about 40 by 50 feet in size. It is located at the south end of Adams Street, just one block from the Union Station, on the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad. Besides being an ideal location from the standpoint of distribution tests of water from wells on the lot have shown up better than any ever before sent from Plymouth, according to official reports made by the department of hygiene of the State Board of Health.

The plant has a capacity of 20 tons of ice every 24 hours, which it is believed will more than care for the needs of this immediate section. Mr. Riddle planning to dispose of the surplus in near-by towns as well as by icing refrigerator cars for the railroad companies. Despite the capacity of the plant, only two men will be required to operate the ice-making machinery, the owner stated, as the equipment is practically automatic throughout.

Power for the plant is furnished by seven electric motors, one of 75-horsepower, and one of 1-horsepower. Surplus ice will be kept in an air-tight cork-lined storage room, which has a capacity in excess of the daily output. Very little loss will be experienced by melting when the ice is kept in this storage room. There are six wells on the lot, although only one pump is used, water being drawn from all six simultaneously.

Mr. Riddle plans to distribute ice daily in the town and to that end he purchased the wagon and harness formerly used by the municipal ice plant. It is expected that the wagon will start on its routes about the 10th. He stated that he would probably add a truck delivery later on. Although no name for the new enterprise has been definitely decided upon, Mr. Riddle stated that it would probably be called the Plymouth Ice Plant.

The municipal ice plant will continue to supply ice to local consumers until the new one is ready to begin operations, it was stated by City Clerk M. W. Spruill yesterday. The city plant shut down about a month ago and although no ice has been made there since a supply, made in near-by towns, has been kept on hand. Town officials hope to be able to dispose of the plant, although they have no prospective purchasers in view at present.

Woman's Auxiliary To Serve Supper Tonight

The Woman's Auxiliary of the local Episcopal church will serve a fried chicken supper at Mrs. Martin's Dining Room Friday night, Feb. 27, starting at 6 p. m. The public is invited to patronize them.

TOTAL RECEIPTS AT POST OFFICE HERE INCREASE

Small Increase in 1930 Over 1929; Month of January, 1931, Also Better

Despite "hard times" and "business depression" talk general in this section last year, the Plymouth post office showed an increase in business over the previous year, the last quarter of 1930 was better than the same period in 1929, and receipts during the month of January, 1931, were larger than they were in January, 1930, all of which would indicate that calamity howlers are at least partly wrong, anyway.

The increases registered were small, it is true, but then they were increases; and that fact alone will doubtless come as a decided shock to those who take a particular delight in wearing long faces and spreading bad news. During the quarter ending December 31, 1930, the total revenue from stamp sales, envelopes, etc. was \$2,585.85, against \$2,535.15 for the period ending December 31, 1929, an increase of \$50.70, or about 2 per cent.

Revenue in 1930 showed an increase over 1929 of \$31, the total being somewhere around \$8,400. This amount was over the minimum required of second-class offices, and the local post office will retain its same rating another year. Receipts during January, 1931, were \$747.53, against \$709.83 for January, 1930, an increase this year of \$37.70, or a little over 5 per cent.

The showing of post offices generally reflects the true condition of business in a community. There were a number of offices that lost their rating last year and dropped back a classification. Therefore, the increase in business here, small as it was, would indicate that conditions are fairly sound in this section. Mr. A. L. Alexander, the postmaster, stated that some of the northern mailorder houses were holding their own, as evidenced by the number of money orders issued by the local office. It is generally felt that there is business to be done, but competition is much stronger now than at any previous time, and the man who profits most is the man who goes after business the hardest.

COUNTY HAS BUT 169 MILES ROADS SHOWN ON MAP

42.15 Miles at Present Are Maintained at State; Few Unimproved

According to a map published recently as a part of the report of the State Tax Commission, only five counties in the State have fewer miles of roads than Washington. The map was prepared by the United States Bureau of Public Roads in cooperation with the State Highway Commission, and shows that Washington county has a total road mileage of 169.45, of which 42.15 miles are maintained by the State and 127.3 miles by the county.

The 127.3 miles of roads maintained by the county are divided into three classes, according to the type of traffic served. There are 23 miles of class A highways, the major purpose of which is to serve inter-community traffic; 32.6 miles of class B roads, which serve approximately equal proportions of farm and inter-community traffic; and 71.7 miles of class C roads, the major purpose of which is to serve traffic between farms, mills, camps, etc., or "feeders" of classes A and B roads.

Only 7.2 miles of roads maintained by the county are listed as the unimproved type, with 120.1 miles coming under the heading of "graded." Of the 42.15 miles maintained by the State Highway commission, 30.45 are hard-surfaced, while the other 11.70 miles are of the sand and gravel type. A number of local people have expressed the opinion that the map is not correct in showing all of the roads maintained by the county, as there are several unimproved roads left off entirely.

The map was made in connection with the proposed law whereby the State will take over all the county and township roads in North Carolina. This bill passed the house this week by a large majority, and little opposition is expected in the Senate. The State now has 8,920.80 miles of road to maintain in North Carolina, of which over 6,000 miles are hard-surfaced. The 100 counties are maintaining 45,091.9 miles of roads, according to the tax commission, 11,752.60 of which are of the unimproved type and only 912.7 miles are hard-surfaced. If the State takes over all roads, the total mileage will be 54,012.7, with 6,912.4 paved and 11,752.6 unimproved, the balance being graded, sand gravel, etc.

The five counties that have fewer

Norman Amendments Included In Road Bill Passed by House

1,785 POUNDS OF POULTRY BRING OWNERS \$280.05

Agent Believes Car Next Month Will Bring Better Prices

While the offerings at the first poultry car of the season, which was loaded here Monday, were not so large in comparison with the number of pounds that might have been brought, County Agent R. E. Dunning stated Tuesday that he considered it a fairly successful event, especially so in view of the prices prevailing at this time. Colored hens brought only 16 cents per pound this year, or as against 21 cents at the first car loaded last year. There were 1,785 pounds of poultry sold at the car door for a total of \$280.05, or an average price of 15 1/2 cents a pound.

Colored hens constituted the bulk of the offerings, about 1,500 pounds being loaded. There were only 17 pounds of broilers, the price for which was 25 cents.

Mr. Dunning stated yesterday that he was planning to secure another car about the latter part of March, when it is believed the prices will be much better. Poultry is usually worth more when marketed just before Easter than at any other time during the season when poultry cars are loaded in this section.

DRAW JURY FOR FEDERAL COURT

Names of Ten Washington County Citizens Drawn For April Term

Ten Washington County citizens were selected this week to serve as jurors in the spring term of the Federal court, Washington division, to be held in Washington beginning April 6. Sixty names, representing seven counties, were drawn in Raleigh this week, Mr. W. M. Bateman, of Roper, deputy clerk United States court, forwarding the list to the Beacon here.

The names of the ten men selected from this county are as follows: J. B. Willoughby, L. W. Gurkin, M. G. Darden, L. L. Bowen, C. J. Norman, Plymouth; W. T. Phelps, H. G. Walker, and H. R. Davenport, Creswell; Frank D. Wilson and Jas. A. Chesson, Roper.

CHANGE MADE IN CLUB SCHEDULES

Home Agent Plans to Take Her Vacation During Next Month

The county home demonstration agent, Miss Pratt Covington, is planning to take her vacation about the middle of March which necessitates some changes in her regular schedule of club meetings during the coming two weeks. Her schedule for the week beginning March 2 is announced as follows:

Monday, March 2, Pleasant Grove Club; Tuesday, Hoke Club; Wednesday, Roper Club; Thursday, Chapel Hill and Alba Clubs; Friday, girls' clubs at Creswell and Cherry, and Creswell Woman's Club, the latter meeting being held at 2:30 p. m.; Saturday, curb market.

For the following week, beginning Monday, March 9, the schedule follows: Monday Scuppernon Club; Tuesday, Cherry Club; Wednesday, Albemarle Club; and Thursday, Wenaona Club.

Miss Covington stated that meetings will be held in April for the Swain, Zion, Beech Grove, and Piney Grove clubs to make up the March meetings, which the agent will not be able to hold before going away.

The home agent also announced that Miss Helen Eastbrook will hold a leaders' school at the courthouse here April 3rd, the meeting starting at 10 o'clock in the morning. All leaders are expected to be present so that they, in turn, can hold the April meeting at their clubs during the agent's absence.

An albino raccoon, which has been on display at the Horton Brothers service station for the past week or two, is attracting considerable attention, several hundred curiosity seekers having called to look the animal over during the past few days. The 'coon is solid white all over and has pink eyes, very much like a white rabbit. It was caught near Jamesville, in Martin county, by a Mr. Holliday, who presented the animal to Mr. Horton here.

Prices of Tobacco Continue To Drop

Tobacco prices have dropped as much as 75 per cent on some grades, and even more on others, since the markets in this section closed last month, it was learned from a comparison of prices and samples gathered on the Warrenton market last Friday just prior to its closing. The samples are now on display at the Beacon office, and they are declared to represent the trend of the market prices now offered by the tobacconist who obtained them in Warrenton.

JAIL EMPTY; NO COURT TUESDAY

Sheriff Considers Hanging "For Rent" Sign On Jail

There was no session of recorder's court here last Tuesday, not a single case being scheduled on the docket, and the High Sheriff of Washington County, J. K. Reid, stated Tuesday that he was seriously considering hanging a "for rent" sign on the jail. There has not been a single prisoner in the cells since Wednesday of last week, when the three colored boys convicted of larceny were sent to the reformatory at Jackson.

However, Sheriff Reid does not expect the jail to remain empty very much longer as he has several warrants to serve as soon as he can find the parties "wanted." The warrants are for minor offenses.

While this is not the first occasion that the jail has been empty and there were no cases for the recorder it has been several months since it happened last. The favorable weather of the past few weeks has probably had some influence in keeping down lawlessness in the county, as it has made much outdoor work possible, particularly on the farms, and when folks are busy they seldom have time to get into meanness.

OYSTER ROAST HERE TUESDAY

Local School Trustees Are Hosts to Teachers and County Officials

An oyster roast was given Tuesday night of this week by the board of trustees of the city schools to members of the county board of education, county commissioners, teachers in the local schools, and a few invited guests. The event was held in the municipal building, where two long tables had been improved for the feast, and Mr. A. H. Stier acted as toastmaster for the occasion. Besides oysters and the usual "trimmings" club sandwiches and soft drinks were served.

There were several brief addresses made by the various school officials, but the feature of the evening was a "pop-drinking" contest staged between a representative of the faculty and another of the board of trustees. Mrs. R. G. L. Edwards, for the faculty, captured honors in this event by drinking three "cokes" in 16 seconds, while D. V. Clayton, who did his best to uphold the honor of the trustees, finished a close second.

Regular Meetings of County Boards Monday

Regular meetings of the county board of commissioners and the county board of education are scheduled to be held in the courthouse here Monday. The board of commissioners will be faced with the appointment of a county attorney to succeed Jerry A. Sawyer, who was killed in an automobile accident early this month; and outside of making this appointment, the boards will probably have only routine matters to deal with.

Albino Raccoon Attracts Considerable Attention

An albino raccoon, which has been on display at the Horton Brothers service station for the past week or two, is attracting considerable attention, several hundred curiosity seekers having called to look the animal over during the past few days. The 'coon is solid white all over and has pink eyes, very much like a white rabbit. It was caught near Jamesville, in Martin county, by a Mr. Holliday, who presented the animal to Mr. Horton here.

TO REFUND TAX ON GAS USED BY FISHING BOATS

Act Will Provide for State Maintenance of All Public Roads

The first State-wide measure of any importance that will directly affect the tax rate in Washington County was acted on by the lower house of the General Assembly this week when it passed the administration road bill, providing for the State taking over and maintaining all county roads, about 19 or 20 cents of which is for debt service, which will not be affected if the bill becomes law. The measure will therefore mean a reduction in the county tax rate of about 7 or 8 cents, it is believed by local authorities.

Representative Zeb Vance Norman is a member of the house committee on roads, and he was particularly active in securing several amendments in the committee which will be beneficial to the county. One of his amendments provides for the exemption of gasoline used by fishing boats, in farm tractors and for manufacturing processes from the 6-cent gasoline tax levied by the bill. The bill as originally drawn made no provision for refunding the tax on gasoline, regardless how it was used, and Governor Gardner brought all the pressure he could bear to have the measure passed without change. However, Mr. Norman and Representative Hamilton, of Carteret County, made a determined stand in behalf of fishermen and tractor owners and succeeded in having their idea incorporated in the bill.

Another amendment secured by Representative Norman that will affect the county very materially was by having the language of the bill changed so that the State will take over "all legally established and county-maintained roads" instead of only the roads shown on maps prepared by the U. S. Bureau Public Roads, the State Tax Commission. The map of Washington County prepared by these organizations left off approximately 30 per cent of the roads in the county, and the bill as originally drawn would not have saved the people in this section a penny on their tax rate. Both of Mr. Norman's amendments are included in the bill as it was passed by the house, and it is believed that the measure will go through the senate in the same form, although there is a possibility of change.

Representative Norman has been confined to his home this week with an attack of influenza, and hence was not present at the sessions Monday and Tuesday nights, when the road bill was passed. However, he was present at all of the sessions of the committee on roads, which framed the measure, and after securing the two amendments exerted his influence in favor of the bill. He expects to be able to return to Raleigh by the latter part of the week.

TOMATOES NOW BEING PLANTED

Seed Delivered Will Plant About 1,300 Acres; 700 In This County

John W. Darden, who is in charge of the Crockett cannery interests here at this time, stated yesterday that he had practically disposed of all the tomato seed received last week, with indications pointing to that crop of about 1,300. Interest in the crop is spreading to other sections, particularly in Bertie County, where Mr. Darden spent last Tuesday. He was there for only one day, but contracts were signed and seed delivered for 400 acres, the crop from which will be delivered to the cannery here.

In addition to the 400 acres in Bertie, Mr. Darden said he expected to have about 200 in Martin County which, added to the 700 acres pledged in this county, gives a total of 1,300 acres. Those who received the seed this week are busy sowing their beds, the planting of which should be completed before March 5th to 10th, he said. When interviewed Wednesday, Mr. Darden said he had about enough seed remaining to care for 150 acres.

Program of Services at Grace Episcopal Church

Sunday School at 10 a. m.
Holy Communion and Sermon at 11 a. m.
Liturgy Service every Wednesday evening at 8.
Woman's Auxiliary every Friday at 3:30.