

THE ROANOKE BEACON

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Plymouth, Washington County, North Carolina, Friday, March 13, 1931.

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COUNCIL ADOPTS NEW SCHEDULE OF WATER RATES

Other Matters Considered By Council at Regular Meeting Friday

The meeting of the Town Council last Friday night was featured by the adoption of the compromise schedule of water rates worked out by Mayor Walker and the discussion of plans to secure an extension of the present city limits at this session of the legislature. Mayor Walker was unable to attend the meeting, but his report was read to the councilmen by the city clerk, and his recommendations were adopted by unanimous vote on motion of Councilman Willford, seconded by Mr. Spruill. Harry Stell, mayor pro tem, presided over the meeting, and the following members of the council were present: H. C. Spruill, H. A. Willford, B. G. Campbell and E. A. Brothers.

The schedule of rates adopted becomes effective immediately, and consumers will pay at the new rates the first of next month. The second reading of the recently installed meters is to be made about the middle of March, and statements charging for the amount of water consumed rather than at a flat rate will be sent out for the first time here by April 1st. Customers will then be allowed a 10 per cent discount if the bill is paid by the 10th of the month, while service will be discontinued if bills are not paid by the 15th.

The rate formerly in effect here was \$2.00 per month, regardless of the amount of water used. The new rate is based on the consumption of water, under the following schedule: Minimum charge, \$1.75 per month, for any amount of water up to 4,000 gallons; next 6,000 gallons, 40 cents per thousand; next 10,000 gallons, 35 cents per thousand; any additional amount, 20 cents per thousand gallons. The schedule was worked out by getting the composite rates of six other towns in this section about the same size of Plymouth and using the average.

Other matters considered by the council included the following:

On motion of Mr. Willford, seconded by Mr. Spruill, Mr. Stell was named assistant to Mayor Walker in supervising the installation of the new pumping equipment.

The city clerk was authorized to sell the ice tongs, scales, and other miscellaneous equipment belonging to the municipal ice plant for the best cash prices obtainable.

An order was passed approving the payment of an account submitted by Dr. Claudius McGowan for professional services rendered to Mr. W. R. Hardison, who was injured while acting as night policeman for the town.

The council then adjourned until Tuesday night, when a special meeting was held to consider the extension of the city limits.

MR. S. L. PHELPS DIED FRIDAY

Was Successful Farmer of Scuppernon; Funeral Held Sunday

Scuppernon, Mar. 10.—Stuart L. Phelps, aged 51, died at his home here Friday, March 6, after a several days illness with pneumonia. He was a successful farmer and a good citizen. As a friend and neighbor he was held in the very highest esteem, both in this and in adjoining communities.

Mr. Phelps was born in the Mount Tabor section May 25, 1879, and was the son of the late Jerome B. and Mary Louise Phelps. He was married in January, 1901, to Miss Bell Davenport. To this union nine children were born, one dying in infancy. The others are Mattie Lou, Joseph Harrell, Maude Eva, Herman, Stuart, Opal, Mary, and Guilford Phelps.

Several years ago he purchased the old home place of his wife's people in the Scuppernon community, where he resided until his death.

Besides his wife and children, he is survived by one sister, Mrs. Carrie Ambrose, of Mount Tabor; one half-brother, Leamon Phelps; his step-mother, Mrs. Sarah Phelps; several other relatives, and a host of friends.

The funeral service was conducted at Scuppernon Christian Church Sunday afternoon, March 8, by Rev. Ernest Poston, of Columbia, pastor of the Mount Tabor Free Will Baptist Church, of which Mr. Phelps was a member. A large crowd of relatives and friends attended to his popularity, and the floral offerings were lovely. Interment was made in Scuppernon cemetery.

Alterations Being Made To Grace Church Here

Members of Grace Episcopal Church have installed a handsome black walnut altar recently and they expect to further beautify the interior of their church in the near future by adding memorial windows, hardwood floors, and a new communion rail.

Local Firemen Hold Annual Election Officers At Meeting Thursday Night

L. W. Gurkin Again Named Chief; R. E. Tarkington and J. F. Ausbon Are Assistants; Committee Named To Arrange for Production of Play

Members of the local volunteer fire department held their regular meeting in the fire house last Friday night, the most important business being the annual election of officers for the coming year. It was also decided at the meeting to sponsor a play some time within the next few months to raise money for the firemen's fund. Jesse McNair and Bill Waters were named a committee to work out the preliminary details, including the selection of a play, and report back to the full organization at a future meeting.

DELEGATION FROM COUNTY IS AMONG THOSE ADVOCATING SALES TAX AT RALEIGH MEET

FRIDAY, THE 13TH

Watch your step today! For the second time in two months we have another Friday the 13th, supposed to be the unluckiest day on the calendar. February is to blame for the unusual occurrence of the hoodoo day coming twice in successive months. Last month having only 28 days, or four weeks, the dates this month fall on exactly the same day as they did in February, and as we had a Friday the 13th then, we have one in March. Hard luck is almost sure to come to aviators jumping out of airplanes without parachutes, people who look down loaded gun barrels and pull the trigger, or legislators from the east who oppose some sort of sales tax, the latter not being confined to the 13th, however.

2 SMALL FIRES IN PAST WEEK

Both Are At Homes of Colored People; Very Little Damage

Two calls were answered by the local fire department last week, one Friday night and the other Saturday night. Little damage was reported in either instance. The alarm Friday night was turned in when a blaze started from a defective flue at the home of a colored man on Wilson Street. It was quickly extinguished.

Saturday night the firemen went to another colored home, this time on east Main Street, the fire there being caused by some sort of explosion in the fire place which threw burning embers over the room. A bed and the wallpaper of the room caught, but the blaze was put out by neighbors by the time the firemen arrived.

DEATH OF MRS. PEARL PATRICK

Ill Only Few Days With Pneumonia; Funeral Last Thursday

Scuppernon, Mar. 10.—Funeral services for Mrs. Pearl Patrick were held at Scuppernon church March 5th, Rev. Roy Respess, pastor, conducting the services. Mrs. Patrick was born November ninth, 1898 and died March 4, 1931, making her stay on earth 32 years 3 months and 23 days. Sick for only a few days with pneumonia, her death came as a shock to her friends and relatives. She had been a member of the Scuppernon Christian Church for many years.

About fourteen years ago she was united in marriage to Mr. George W. Patrick, who survives. To this union were born seven children, all of whom are living. Besides her husband and children, she is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Patrick; two brothers, Clyde and Luther; several other relatives and a host of friends. One sister and two brothers preceded her to the grave. Interment was made in the Scuppernon cemetery.

The sympathy of the entire community goes out to the bereaved family.

Ice Plant Expected To Begin Operating Soon

Unexpected delays prevented the operation of the new ice plant here early this week, as was expected. Mr. A. J. Riddle said yesterday that practically everything was ready and workmen were busy making electrical connections yesterday. He expects to freeze the first ice in the new plant the latter part of this week or first of next.

FUNERAL IS HELD SATURDAY FOR MRS. HORNTHAL

Died Early Friday Morning After Short Illness With Pneumonia

Mrs. Florence Virginia Hornthal died at her home here last Friday morning at 6:10, after an illness lasting about two weeks, her death being attributed principally to grief and shock over the death of her husband just two weeks previously. Immediately following the funeral of her husband, Mrs. Hornthal was confined to her bed and steadily grew worse, despite the efforts of several physicians in constant attendance. Pneumonia and other complications developed, and her condition was such that hope for her recovery was abandoned more than a week ago.

Mrs. Hornthal was born December 9, 1872, in Anson County, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. William C. Harlee. Her father was a member of a prominent Florence, S. C. family; while her mother, Miss Katherine McRae before her marriage, was a native of this county, her forebears having been leaders in settling and developing lower Washington County in the section known as "McRae's Quarter."

LUXURY FORM OF TAX IS FAVORED IN THIS SECTION

Gross Sales Tax Idea Has Few Friends Among Merchants

The call issued Wednesday for an army of landowners to move on Raleigh Thursday and impress upon members of the legislature the necessity of raising revenue for the State-supported six months term from sources other than ad valorem tax was expected to attract one of the largest gatherings ever to assemble there. This newspaper is printed early Thursday, and for that reason the results of the meeting could not be learned in time for this issue, but a large delegation was expected to go from Plymouth and Washington County, as well as from most other towns and counties in this section.

The call for the Raleigh meeting was issued jointly by the president of the Farmers' Alliance, the master of the State Grange, and the president of the North Carolina Tax Relief Association. Over 2,500 merchants gathered in Raleigh Monday and bitterly opposed any form of sales before the joint committee on finance, following which the sentiment of the committee appeared to have changed instantly. The senate members withdrawing any further consideration of the sales tax idea, which before that seemed to be favored by them.

In a telephone conversation Wednesday, Senator H. S. Ward, a member of the senate finance committee, stated that he had never seen a body of men change so quickly, and he urged as many as possible from this county to attend the hearing to be held before the committee Thursday. Parties were being formed late Wednesday and at least 25 or 30 Washington County citizens were planning to be present, including several county commissioners and officers.

General sentiment in Plymouth favors the luxury form of sales tax, and it is believed the same sentiment prevails throughout the county. Among the farmers of the section, there is not so much distinction made between the luxury and general sales taxes, but they are practically unanimous in favoring some method of taxation that will relieve land from the heavy burden it is now carrying. Without exception it is believed merchants here are against the general or bulk sales tax, while few oppose the proposed tax on luxuries, which include soft drinks, cigars, cigarettes, moving picture admissions, and other items not considered necessities.

County officials are also practically unanimous in advocating the luxury tax. They see the need of reducing the tax on real estate and feel that it can best be done by State support of the schools from revenue derived from other sources than land. Leaders in the Democratic Party of the section constitute another class that is back of the sales tax idea, one man going so far as to say that he believed it would amount to political suicide for the present Democratic legislature to adjourn without perfecting some plan for materially lessening the property tax.

Farmers Meeting at Creswell On Tuesday

By C. H. RABON (Creswell Agricultural Teacher)
There will be an important meeting at the Creswell School Tuesday evening, March 17th at 7:30 o'clock. Mr. James M. Gray, former assistant director of the agricultural extension service will speak on corn production and soil improvement. Everybody is cordially invited to attend. Come and bring some one with you.

BILL IS INTRODUCED IN HOUSE TO EXTEND CITY LIMITS OF PLYMOUTH

Husbands of Wenona Club Members Aid in Housework

By MISS PRATT COVINGTON
A group of Wenona club women were asked recently what their husbands did to aid them in getting to the curb market or to club meetings. The following answers were turned in, and some husbands were found to be what we would term "Ideal Husbands." One woman said that her husband helped her wash, scrub, and even helped her cook. Another said that her husband kept the baby; another husband made beds and

helped around the house in general. Still another woman said that her husband promised her that he would look after things around the house and have the chickens, etc. fed while she attended the club meetings, and then she added, doubtfully, that she reckoned it would be done. Anyway, we find as fine a bunch of "husbands" out at Wenona as can be found anywhere, and home life out there is a splendid example of cooperation.

THREE COUNTY BILLS ARE PUT BEFORE HOUSE

Repeal Charter of Cherry; Change Hunting Law; Firemen's Bill

Representative Zeb Vance Norman introduced three bills in the house of representatives last week, two of them on Thursday and the other on Friday. The bills introduced on Thursday were as follows:

H. B. 855, to give firemen police powers during fires in Washington County.

H. B. 886, to repeal the law incorporating the town of Cherry, in Washington County.

The bill introduced by Mr. Norman Friday was H. B. 902, to amend the law on deer hunting in Washington County.

Very little information could be secured about any of the proposed laws here this week, except that the bill to repeal law incorporating the town of Cherry was introduced at the request of the mayor of Cherry.

It is thought that the amendment to the law regulating deer hunting would provide for an earlier opening of the season, although it is not definitely known. The law at present permits deer to be hunted from October 1 to January 15, and it is known that a number of sportsmen have requested that the season be opened a month earlier.

The bill to grant police powers to firemen during fires would enable members of fire departments to make arrests for violations of ordinances, particularly where traffic regulations are concerned.

The bill repealing the incorporation of Cherry was passed by the House Monday of this week, and it now goes to the Senate, where it will also likely be passed.

C. F. BATEMAN DIES NEAR HERE

Had Been in Feeble Health For Several Years; Final Services Wednesday

Mr. Charley Frank Bateman, 70, highly respected farmer of the Chapel Hill community, died at his home about two miles from here Monday, March 9, after having been in feeble health for several years. About two years ago Mr. Bateman suffered a stroke of paralysis, from which he never completely recovered, and much of the time since then he has been confined to his bed.

Mr. Bateman was born in Martin County September 8, 1860. He later moved to this county and made his home on the farm on which he died. He was regarded as of the highest type of citizen, modest, unassuming in manner, a good neighbor, and a true friend to many.

Funeral services were held at his home Wednesday, March 11, by Rev. Conley Greer, pastor of the Christian church of this city. Interment was made in the family plot on the home farm.

Driver's License Required Under Terms of New Bill

The Senate passed a bill Monday which requires the drivers of all automobiles in the State to secure a driver's license. The act as originally drawn would have required each driver to take an examination under the supervision of the highway patrolmen and the license would have cost the sum of \$2. However, amendments in the senate provide that licenses may be issued by the sheriff of any county, policeman of any town, or by any highway patrolman, without any cost whatever. The law becomes effective January 1, 1932, provided it passes the house of representatives without further amendment.

BILL IS INTRODUCED IN HOUSE TO EXTEND CITY LIMITS OF PLYMOUTH

ACTION IS TAKEN BY REQUEST OF TOWN COUNCIL

Survey Presented to Special Meeting of City Board Tuesday Night

A bill was introduced in the house of representatives at Raleigh Wednesday, by Representative Zeb Vance Norman, proposing extension of the corporate limits of the town of Plymouth so as to include about one-third more area than that now embraced in the town. The measure was introduced at the request of the Town Council following a special meeting held Tuesday night to receive a report from Mr. W. W. Ange, who made a survey of the proposed extension after having been employed by the council at its regular meeting last Friday night.

City Clerk Moye W. Spruill, Postmaster A. L. Alexander, and Attorney W. L. Brinkley composed the delegation which carried the bill to Raleigh and asked Mr. Norman to introduce it in the house. The measure, which was drawn by Mr. Whitley, was referred to the committee on cities and towns, and a hearing will be held in connection with it Friday morning.

Efforts are being made to have a large delegation of citizens present at the hearing in Raleigh this morning, as it is expected that some opposition will develop to the terms of the bill, which is considered vitally necessary by members of the town council. The decision to ask extension of the city limits was unanimously made at the meeting Tuesday night.

Roughly, the line of the incorporated limits will be as follows, should the bill become law: Beginning on the Roanoke River at the canning plant, running out the road to Highway 90, then straight to Conaby Creek, at Jno. Atamanchuk's place. From there the line would run up Conaby Creek to the county farm property, then follow the line of the county property to Highway 97, just back of Hooker's store. The boundary would then go almost due west to the Williamson road, Highway 90, again, at the Kenneth Hopkins place; it would then follow the road to Bateman's farm to the cleared land, and from there to the Welch's Creek bridge on the fishery road, thence to the river on the fishery river to the beginning.

It is estimated that the proposed extension would increase the valuation of town property by one-third, and the population by about 500. There are 65 houses in White City alone which would be embraced in the town under the act, besides a number of houses on the Williamson road. Plants of both the Chicago Mill and Lumber Corporation and the National Handle Company are also included. It was stated that most of the proposed additional territory already has fire protection provided by the town.

Town authorities are agreed that the extension is the only method by which the town tax rate can be held to its present level, and one of them said that the rate would have to be around \$3 this year unless the area proposed is added. That there will probably be some opposition to the bill is assured, although the authorities hope to show the house committee that the advantages offered the people in the territory immediately adjoining the town far outweigh the disadvantages.

The people of the town generally are heartily in favor of the extension, according to the city clerk, and it is expected that a large number will attend the hearing in Raleigh today.

Mrs. Walter Moore Victim Of Very Unusual Accident

Mrs. Walter Moore, of near here, was the victim of a very unusual accident last Friday morning while engaged in sweeping and burning trash in the yard of her home. Some one had thrown out a quantity of unexploded .22 caliber cartridges, which she raked into a small trash fire. The heat exploded the cartridges and Mrs. Moore was struck in the leg and stomach by two of the bullets. She was quickly given medical attention, and the wounds are not considered serious.

OUT OF LOAN BLANKS AGAIN

No Applications For Loans From This Section Have Yet Been Acted Upon

At least 60 or 70 applications for loans have been made by veterans here under the terms of the law passed in the closing days of Congress so far according to local postal workers, from whom a great many of the application blanks were received. The supply of applications at the local post has again run short, the last having been given out early this week. More are expected by the office in the next few days, although it is believed that most of the local veterans who are going to ask for loans have already done so.

So far as could be learned here yesterday, no loans had been completed by Plymouth veterans. One man from the lower section of the county is said to have gone to Washington, D. C., and secured approval of his loan, but this could not be verified. It was announced last week by the Veterans' Bureau that application would be passed on rapidly and checks mailed out within a week. However, the promised speed has not developed in any local cases, so far as could be learned.

Local Merchant Returns From Trip To New York

Leland S. Thompson returned Sunday night from a week in New York City, during which time he bought the spring line of men's and women's ready to wear for the firm of Thompson-Cragon, Inc. Mr. Thompson said that prices were a great deal cheaper this spring than they had been for many years, particularly on women's coats and dresses.

Manufacturers in New York are much more optimistic over the outlook for business this year than they were twelve months ago, Mr. Thompson stated, and the same feeling extended to other merchants from Southern States with whom he came in contact.

County Schools Will Close About May 8th

According to James W. Norman, county superintendent of public instruction, the schools of Washington County will close two months from Friday of this week, or May 8th. Tentative plans for commencement are being worked out in some of them, although nothing definite is yet known.

Practically all of the schools, except Plymouth, will close at the same time, as the 8-months term is universal throughout the county. The local schools run for nine months, and the closing date here has not yet been determined.

Roper Basketball Teams Have Excellent Record

By defeating both of the Edenton basketball teams last week, Roper High school officially closed its season. The boys and girls teams have only met defeat once each and thereby claim a very successful and hard-to-beat quintet and sextet.