

# THE ROANOKE BEACON

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

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VOLUME 42—NUMBER 13

Plymouth, Washington County, North Carolina, Friday, March 27, 1931.

ESTABLISHED 1889

## TARLTON GARDNER, LOCAL MAN, SHOOTS HIMSELF

### Believed That Worry Over Business Cause; Funeral To Be Held Today

Tarlton Gardner, nearly 70 years of age, and one of Plymouth's well known citizens, committed suicide here about 8:15 o'clock Thursday morning by shooting himself through the head with a single barrel shotgun of a 12 gauge calibre in his room at his home. Death was instantaneous.

Mr. Gardner was apparently in his usual health, but according to members of the family, he had been worrying here of late about business conditions.

Over a long period of years, Mr. Gardner had held a responsible position with W. H. Hampton and Son, a local mercantile firm, and had many friends here and throughout the county. For the past two months he had been conducting a store of his own, near his home here.

It seems that Mr. Gardner had risen at his usual time Thursday morning, breakfasted and opened his store. Later, he went to his son-in-law's service station, Jack Swain, and secured his shotgun. Taking the gun, he went to his room and shot himself. Mr. Swain was away on a trip at the time.

Upon hearing the discharge of the gun, members of the family rushed to Mr. Gardner's room where they found him dying on the floor.

Funeral services will be held here this afternoon at 3 o'clock and interment will be made in a local cemetery. The deceased was a member of Perseverance Masonic Lodge, No. 59, and the lodge will bury him with full Masonic honors, it is understood. He was also a member of the local Methodist church.

Besides his wife, the deceased is survived by six daughters and two sons. They are: Misses Mary, Olga, Wenona, Florence, and Mrs. Jack Swain, all of Plymouth; also Miss Athelia Gardner, of Norfolk, Va. The sons are Tom and Tarlton Gardner. A number of sisters also survive and other relatives.

## CAPTURE STILL AND TWO MEN

### Sheriff Reid and Chief P. W. Brown Make Successful Raid Wednesday

A thirty gallon copper still together with four 50 gallon barrels of mash were captured on W. E. Gaylord's farm which is rented by Louis Cooper, negro, two miles from Plymouth, about 1:30 o'clock Wednesday afternoon by Sheriff J. K. Ried and Chief P. W. Brown.

The boozery and mash were stored in Cooper's barn. Cooper and Abraham Leathers, both colored, were arrested on charges of possessing material for the manufacture of liquor and also for manufacturing liquor. However, they were released on \$300 bond each.

Sheriff Reid stated that Cooper and Leathers would be given a preliminary hearing in Recorder's court here next Tuesday. After Sheriff Reid and Chief Brown had found the distillery and mash, Cooper and Leathers admitted that the outfit belonged to them, the sheriff stated.

## Considerable Increase In Cotton Is Reported

The Department of Commerce, through the Bureau of the Census, announced the preliminary report on cotton ginned, by counties, in North Carolina, for the crops of 1930 and 1929. The record for Washington County was: 1,251 bales for 1930, compared with the 864 bales ginned in 1929. This shows a considerable increase in the cotton produced in this county during the past year over that of the preceding year.

## Law Requires Bitten Dogs To Be Killed

Dr. Claudius McGowan yesterday called the attention of people in this section to the fact that the law of North Carolina requires that all dogs which have been bitten, or which are supposed to have been bitten by a mad dog, shall be killed at once. Several dogs in town, it is understood, were bitten by the dog which was killed and found to have rabies last week. So far as is known, none of them have been killed.

## Finds Old Prescription Blank at Lumber Mill

L. B. Windley, local young man, found a prescription blank in the Chicago Lumber Mill here behind a saw bench Tuesday that was made out by the late Dr. B. H. Gilmer on October 19, 1910. This makes the prescription blank approximately 21 years of age. The writing on the script is well preserved.

## Town Limits Bill Is Revived Again; This Time in Senate

### Introduced by Senator H. S. Ward Last Thursday; May Pass Senate, But House Is Another Story, As Committee Is Against It

The bill to extend the corporate limits of the town of Plymouth, after having been killed by an unfavorable report returned by the house committee of counties, cities, and towns week before last, reared its head in the legislative halls at Raleigh again last week, this time in the senate. It was introduced by Senator Hallet S. Ward, of the second senatorial district, last Thursday, and presumably was referred to the senate committee on counties, cities and towns, although newspaper accounts relative to its introduction did not state what disposition was made.

Senator Ward assured local citizens interested in the passage of the bill

## AMBROSE L. OWENS ANNOUNCES HIS CANDIDACY FOR MAYOR IN MUNICIPAL ELECTION ON MAY 5

### TAKES CHARGE OF NEWSPAPER

#### Charles H. McSwain Now Managing Editor of Roanoke Beacon

Charles H. McSwain of Albemarle has been employed by the owners of the Roanoke Beacon as managing editor to succeed Jack Booker of Williamston, who has been acting in this capacity for the past several months. Mr. Booker will devote all of his time on The Enterprise at Williamston.

Mr. McSwain arrived in town Monday and will take active charge of the Beacon Monday. For several years he was on the staff of the Stanly News-Herald, a semi-weekly formerly published in Albemarle, N. C. For the past year he was editor and manager of The Montgomery Herald, a weekly newspaper at Troy, N. C. He has also had a number of years experience on daily papers.

Under McSwain's management the Beacon plans to continue its policy in the past of giving the people of Plymouth and Washington county a live and wide awake newspaper and to publish all the news that is fit to print.

## RECORDER HAS LIGHT SESSION

### Only One Case Tried at Court Tuesday by Judge Owens

An exceedingly light session was had in Recorder Court here Tuesday morning. Only one case was tried and disposed of with Judge E. L. Owens, presiding and Solicitor C. L. Bailey, representing the state.

The case tried was that of Wilson Hassell, a white man of about 40 years of age, who was charged with fraud. He was tried and the case involved some merchandise which the defendant was alleged to have bought for a church.

## Three Persons Bitten By Mad Dog Last Saturday

Three persons, Roy Davenport, Dan Satterthwaite, and Earl Ainsley, were bit by a dog afterwards found to be afflicted with rabies last Saturday. The dog, a small bull terrier, belonged to Mrs. Tabitha Davenport. It was killed by Roy Davenport and taken to the State Laboratory of Hygiene Sunday, where examination disclosed the animal was suffering from rabies.

Each of the three men are taking the Pasteur treatment, and no ill effects are anticipated by their physician. It is understood that several other dogs were bitten by the animal Saturday, but so far none of them have been killed. The incident is causing many owners of canine to have pets vaccinated with the anti-rabies serum.

## REGULAR MEET TOWN COUNCIL IS HELD FRIDAY

### Large Number of Routine Matters Disposed of at Short Session

The Town Council held its regular semi-monthly meeting last Friday night, with routine business occupying the attention of the members practically throughout the session. Due to the absence of Mayor Walker, Harry Stell, mayor pro tem, was in the chair, with a full attendance of councilmen, including H. A. Willford and A. E. Brothers from the first ward; G. T. Daves and B. G. Campbell, for the second ward; Harry Stell and H. C. Sprull, of the third ward.

The clerk was authorized to pay a number of current bills, and also to notify the Standard Oil Company that its property here is badly in need of cleaning up. This property is located on "Sugar Hill," the lot at the present time being overgrown with weeds, making it very unsightly as well as insanitary.

Tax collections for the past two years were reported as about \$15,000 short; that is, the town owns tax certificates for property amounting to that sum. The council passed an order, on motion of Mr. Willford, seconded by Mr. Sprull, that a loan of \$8,000 be made from the bond retirement fund in order to meet current obligations of the town. This money is to be paid back from the current expense fund as rapidly as tax collections will permit.

## FORMER MAYOR ENTERS CONTEST ON PAST RECORD

### Town Politics Expected To Liven Up Considerably In Next Few Weeks

Ambrose L. Owens broke the ice in municipal politics Wednesday afternoon by announcing his candidacy for the office of mayor, subject to the action of the town election to be held Tuesday, May 8. He has long been a leader in every phase of activity in both town and county and has served as county commissioner, member of the school board, mayor of Plymouth, member of the local council, and as treasurer of Plymouth.

In announcing his candidacy, Mr. Owens states that he will favor an economical and conservative management of all municipal affairs, as well as the reduction of every town expense possible. He points to his past record in office, and solicits support of the voters on the strength of it.

Mr. Owens was appointed mayor by the town council in October, 1922, and statements of the financial condition of the town at the beginning and at the end of his term in office are cited by his friends in supporting his candidacy. These statements show that when he became mayor, the town had current obligations of more than \$15,000, with not a cent of money to meet them, and no credit with any outside firms. After serving for about three years, the records show that the town had obligations of only \$21, its assets, most of which were cash, totaled over \$6,000; and its credit had been reestablished.

Interest in the town election is now expected to mount rapidly, and it is likely that several candidacies for places on the board of aldermen will be announced within the next week or two. Although there has been little open talk relative to municipal politics, there seems to be a pretty strong undercurrent that gives rise to the belief that things will warm up shortly, and that there will be some degree of fireworks is almost certain.

While none of the members of the present board of councilmen has stated that he will, or will not, be a candidate, considerable speculation is being indulged in as to whether or not some of the members will run again. Mayor Walker was not in town the early part of the week, but it is rumored that he does not desire his office again; and at least one council member is said to have declared he was through.

At present the town council is composed of the following: First Ward, H. A. Willford and A. E. Brothers; second ward, G. T. Daves and B. G. Campbell; third ward, Harry Stell and H. C. Sprull. Party politics do not figure at all in municipal elections, the lists being open to all. No primary is held, the usual procedure being for anybody who wishes to run to an-

## Robbery of Mail Pouches Is Solved by Confession of Two Boys Last Thursday

### GEORGE W. DIXON DIED AT HIS HOME IN ROPER LAST FRIDAY MORNING

### PROMINENT IN COUNTY AFFAIRS FOR MANY YEARS

#### Large Crowd Attends Final Rites at Roper Methodist Church Saturday

Roper, March 24.—George Washington Dixon, 59 years of age, and one of Washington county's most prominent citizens, died at his home here Friday morning at 4 o'clock, following a prolonged illness of something over seven months.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the Roper Methodist church with former Presiding Elder, H. I. Glass, of Washington, officiating, assisted by Rev. Bascom Hurley, pastor, and Rev. R. G. Edwards and Rev. Mr. Canthrell of Plymouth. Interment was made in the church cemetery.

A large crowd attended the funeral and the floral offerings were very beautiful, manifesting the esteem in which the deceased was held by his friends and neighbors. The entire Roper School, faculty and board of trustees attended the service in a body, each dropping a flower on the casket as it passed to its final resting place.

Mr. Dixon was born in Washington, N. C., July 13th, 1872 and at a comparative early age was married to Miss Isoline Chesson of Washington county, having made their home in Roper.

For years Mr. Dixon had been a steward in the Methodist church here where he had been a faithful and loyal member. He had always taken an active interest in religious, educational and civic affairs. He was a former member of the board of county commissioners, and was for several terms chairman of the board of trustees of the Roper school, having been instrumental in securing the new school building here.

The pallbearers were: L. E. Hassell, R. B. Forbes, D. G. O'Brien, Dr. C. McGowan, J. E. Phelps, Jack McAllister, H. A. Hutcheson and C. L. Bailey. The honorary pallbearers were: J. J. Hassell, F. D. Wilson, H. L. Lewis, J. K. Reid, Henry Williams, W. A. Blount, J. T. McAllister, J. W. Darden, Ellis Chesson, C. E. Mizell, T. F. Davenport, R. W. Lewis, Will Davenport, and T. L. Wynne, and also assisted by the Sunday School class of which the deceased was a member, consisting of Jack Hassell, Maurice and Lansing Peacock, Tom Norman, L. E. Hassell, Jr., C. E. Mizell, Jr., Ralph Harrell, Dan Marrow, Osborne Marrow and James Bateman.

Besides his wife, the deceased is survived by one daughter, Francis; two sons, Aubrey of Manteo, and George of Roper; one sister, Mrs. Fannie Ayers, of Plymouth; one brother, Nat Dixon, of Belhaven, several nieces and one grand child.

## Episcopal Services for Sunday Announced

Rev. A. H. Marshall, Rector Sunday school at 10 a. m. Holy Communion and Sermon at 9:45 a. m. St. Luke's Church, Roper Church school at 10 a. m. Holy Communion and Sermon at 11 a. m.

The Bishop of the Diocese joins me in extending a most cordial invitation to every member of these churches to attend the services next Sunday, Palm Sunday brings us a lesson that we should not forget and will not if we attend services Sunday. It will also prepare us for the greater lesson of the Eastertide. If you have no church home, we cordially invite you to make this church your church and receive the benefit of its historic services.

## ALTON BIGGS AND LEON OVERTON HELD FOR COURT

### All of Missing Articles Are Recovered by Local Authorities

Alton Biggs and Leon Overton, young white boys who live near here, confessed to Sheriff J. K. Reid and Chief of Police P. W. Brown last Thursday that they entered the union station here on the night of March 16 and stole two locked first-class mail pouches. They were arrested Wednesday on charges of stealing a pistol from the star route driver here, and their connection with the mail robbery was worked out by the sheriff and chief of police.

Both young men denied taking any part in the robbery when first arrested and maintained their innocence until identified by a Mr. Sexton, of Jamesville, as being the two boys who had presented a check known to have been stolen from the mail bags at his filling station. They then confessed, also telling the sheriff where they had buried practically all of the loot and the key used to get into the station. All of the stolen articles were recovered by the officers.

Preliminary hearing was scheduled to be held here before United States Commissioner J. H. Leggett Monday, but the men waived examination and entered pleas of guilty. The commissioner fixed bond at \$3,000 each, in default of which they are both being held in the jail here to await the next term of Federal court at Washington, beginning April 6. Charges against them in the State courts were dropped, and they were turned over to the custody of Federal authorities.

The robbery, which took place Monday night of last week, excited much comment locally, and Federal, county and town officers were put to work on the case immediately. Sheriff Reid and Chief Brown are due most of the credit for the quick settlement of the matter, however. The two missing pouches and practically all of the mail were recovered by local post office employees the day following the robbery.

When the robbery was discovered, officers suspected Biggs and Overton, known to be close friends, as a key to the baggage room of the station was reported last while Biggs was working for L. E. Paul, mail and express messenger, several months ago. After the confession, this key was found buried at a fence post on the old James Sprull farm on Long Acre road.

The officers arrested the two young men for stealing a pistol from Mr. Ainsley, star route mail carrier between here and Columbia. The missing pistol was found at the home of Overton, after the two had told conflicting tales as to how it came in their possession. Ostensibly held for stealing the gun, authorities continued their investigation to connect them with the theft of the mail bags.

When a check for \$372, mailed the night of the robbery and known to have been in the pouches stolen, turned up at the bank here, Sheriff Reid went to the store where it was cashed, Sexton and Anderson, in Jamesville, to ascertain if they knew anything about the persons who cashed the check. Mr. Sexton remembered the occasion and came to Plymouth, positively identifying Biggs and Overton as the men who had given him the check.

Confronted with the check and Mr. Sexton, a confession was obtained, the young men making a clean breast of everything, including the location of the stolen goods. It was also found that a box of class rings, made for the junior class of the local high school had been stolen by Biggs from the station on the night of December 31, 1930, as well as an overcoat and two scarfs from a freight car here December 28. These thefts had not been reported to authorities, as these articles were being returned to the shipper in each instance, and the loss was not discovered until they were recovered by the sheriff following Biggs' confession.

Articles recovered by the sheriff include the box of class rings, an overcoat, two scarfs, several checks belonging to local individuals and firms, two pillow cases, two table scarfs, and two other cheap rings, most of which was taken from the two mail pouches. Some of the stolen goods were buried while others were found at various places designated by the young men in their confession.

Mrs. W. F. Ausbon who has been spending some time in Hampton as the guest of her daughters Mesdames E. C. Caton, W. A. Crockett and H. R. Livers, returned home on Sunday.

## The Goose Hangs High--And Herrings Are Running in the Old Roanoke

The Kitty Hawk and Slade fisheries, owned and operated by W. H. Hampton & Son, of Plymouth, started the 1931 fishing season Monday of this week with the catches averaging as well as those at the beginning of last season, if not better, W. R. Hampton, who is in active charge stated yesterday.

The two fisheries, located on opposite sides of the Roanoke River, two miles west of Plymouth, are operating at present with a crew of only 60 men.

However, this number will be augmented as the season advances until approximately 125 men will be employed at the height of the season.

In an interview with Mr. Hampton yesterday he stated something over 400 men, both white and colored, applied for jobs in person Monday morning at the fisheries. Two colored men, nearly came to blows about which should receive a job, so anxious were they to secure work. Mr. Hampton remarked that he was in need of a horse

for work about the fisheries Monday morning and that he made the statement to that effect, whereupon a negro stepped up and said:

"Boss, I'll get you a horse in a few minutes if you will give me a job."

"I agreed," continued Mr. Hampton, "and in about thirty minutes the negro was back with the horse, having led the animal over a narrow plank platform and put him in the stable. I don't hardly see how he did it without allowing the horse to fall over-

board into the river."

The average catch per day, thus far, has been between three and five thousand fish. However, the fisheries have a daily capacity of around 750,000 fish. And it is expected that this number will be reached during the peak of the season.

Already a few people have been visiting the fisheries which is truly a novel sight for the uninitiated, most of them remaining to purchase a small quantity of fish. Before the season is

over it is expected that hundreds of visitors from all sections of the state will be attracted to the fisheries, as this has proved the record heretofore.

When questioned as to his opinion of the success the fisheries would meet with this season, Mr. Hampton stated that the catches thus far were averaging as well or better as those of last year and that he was expecting the season to equal or even surpass that of last season.

A total number of pounds of fish for this