

THE ROANOKE BEACON

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.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ And Washington County News ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

VOLUME XLII—NUMBER 18

Plymouth, Washington County, North Carolina, Friday, May 1, 1931

ESTABLISHED 1889

THIEVES BREAK INTO 3 PLACES OF BUSINESS HERE

Jethro Respass, 21 Years Old ex-Convict Charged With the Robberies

Three local business establishments were broken into and looted of merchandise here Sunday night, while the alleged thief for two of the establishments, Jethro Respass, 21-year-old negro and ex-convict, is still at large, though local officers are pretty close on his trail, it is understood, and it is expected that he will be apprehended at any time now.

Thompson-Clagon Company, Gilbert Dry Cleaning Works, and Jack Swains Filling Station are the establishments broken into and robbed. Respass is charged with entering and taking merchandise and clothing from the two first-named firms.

George Coburn, night policeman, discovered Respass in the act of leaving the Thompson-Clagon store from a rear window about 11 o'clock. However, the negro made his escape. But he failed to get away with the merchandise which he had packed in a box, consisting of suits, ladies' coats, shirts, shoes, etc.

Jack Peele, well known young man here, happened along about this time and was invoked into service by Policeman Coburn. Jack was requested to rush to the home of Chief P. W. Brown, wake him from his slumbers, and bring him to the scene to help with the capture of the robber. Mr. Peele declares that he called with all of his lung power for about twenty-five times, but was unable to awaken the chief. Nevertheless, his efforts were not in vain, as he was sporting a new four-in-hand tie the next morning, a present from Mr. Thompson for his faithful calling of the policeman.

Several citizens joined with Policeman Coburn in an effort to capture the alleged Respass, but the negro made good his escape.

The merchandise packed in the box at the Thompson-Clagon store was valued at approximately \$150. It seems that the negro made his entrance from a second story window by breaking the glass out and taking off the latch. A small hack saw was also found in the store which was sold to Respass by a local hardware merchant Saturday. A can of motor oil was also found in the building.

Just what the negro intended to do with the can of oil is not known, but there are two theories entertained by local people. One is that he intended to use the oil for setting fire to the building, while the other theory is that he had the oil to use on the hack saw in the event he was forced to saw his way into the building.

A number of articles were taken from the Gilbert Cleaning Works, an entrance having been made through a window into this establishment. These articles have not been recovered thus far.

Several cartons of cigarettes and other merchandise were taken from Jack Swain's filling station. Entrance was made through the door, after breaking the lock.

Sheriff Joe Reid traced Respass as far as Elizabeth City, where the trail was lost. Respass was sentenced to the chain gang several months ago for the stealing of a pig. He had just completed serving his sentence a few days before.

FIRE COMPANY TO STAGE PLAY EARLY IN MAY

'The Silent Shape,' Mystery Drama, Is Production Selected

In keeping with an annual custom, the Fire Department of Plymouth will present a play here during the early part of May, it was announced yesterday by members of the department. Heretofore this event has met with much interest and success, and it is expected to create still greater interest this year.

The play is entitled "The Silent Shape," which is a very complicated mystery drama, yet holds a distinct strain of humor and comedy throughout, is one which can be enjoyed equally by children and adults. The players are finding this play unusually interesting and are displaying great enthusiasm in their efforts to make perfect their characterizations.

Therefore, it is believed that the people of Plymouth and Washington County may expect a truly hair-raising and mirth-provoking play from the fire men of this place at an early date.

The cast is composed of the following: Van Martin, Beulah Harris, Lawrence Jones, Mrs. Charles Jackson, Frank Spruill, Louise Duvall, Miller Warren, and Bill Waters. Miss Helene Duvall and Jim Ausbon are the directors in charge.

Baby Show Will Be Staged Here by Missionary Society

Opens With Parade From School Building Next Thursday, May 7; Voting Contest Lasts Until Friday, 15th, When Show Will Be Presented

Tentative plans are now underway for the staging of a baby show in Plymouth by the Young Women's Missionary Society of the Methodist church, it was announced here yesterday. There will be a parade of the babies Thursday afternoon, May 7th, at 4 o'clock, from the Plymouth high school building.

The voting contest in which the most popular and attractive babies will be decided upon, will last from May 7 until May 15th. The show will be staged Friday night, May 15th, at 8 o'clock. The admission fee will be 10 and 15 cents. There will be two ballot boxes, one at the O. Henry Drug Store and one at Thompson-Clagon store. Babies from infancy up to six years of age may be entered in

the contest. An entrance fee of 25 cents will be charged for each baby entered.

There will be several prizes awarded to babies voted to be the most popular and attractive.

The proceeds of this show will be used for the church. Baby shows always prove very popular, and it is expected that this one will be no exception to the rule. It will be remembered that a baby show was staged in Plymouth several years ago which created considerable interest throughout the town and county.

Therefore, if you have a baby which you desire to enter for the contest and show, you should get in touch with the Young Women's Missionary Society of the Methodist church here as quickly as possible.

VOTERS CHOOSE TOWN OFFICERS ON TUESDAY

Russell Harrison To Preach Here Sunday

Rev. R. G. L. Edwards, pastor of the Methodist church here, announced that Sunday school and preaching services would be held in the church Sunday. It will be several weeks before the congregation will move to new quarters due to the repair work that is going on at this time.

Russell Harrison, teacher in the local school, who is preparing to enter the ministry will preach his first sermon at this church Sunday morning at 11 o'clock in the absence of the pastor, who will deliver the commencement services at Creswell Sunday morning. Mr. Edwards will fill the pulpit Sunday night as usual.

MANY VISITORS AT FISHERIES IN PAST FEW DAYS

Tourists From All Over Country Delighted With Unusual Spectacle

Many visitors from various sections of the country have been visiting the Kitty Hawk and Slade fisheries, located about two miles above the town on the Roanoke River, this season and scarcely a day passes now that one or more people from distant parts of the state or elsewhere visit these fisheries.

Roy Hampton, owner and operator of the fisheries, stated here this week that thus far he had sold a good many fish to trucks from all sections of the State, some coming from Johnson City, Tenn.

The visitors are always delighted with their experience at these fisheries. To see the crews of colored men making a big haul with the half-mile long nets is a spectacle not so soon forgotten. Then, too, there is the cafe at the fisheries, where visitors can secure well-cooked fish, fresh from the water, to eat. This cookery has and is proving a very popular thing.

Many of the sight-seers are not satisfied until they have taken a ride in one of the tug boats which pulls the big nets out into the river.

And as for the negroes, who man the nets which lure the herring and other fish from the murky waters of the Roanoke safely inside the batteries, there is a peculiar fascination. They do not follow this work except during the fishing season in the spring of the year. Numbers of the colored men come from as far as New York City to take part in the work.

Belhaven Orchestra To Broadcast Next Saturday

Harry Paul and his "Lasses Lickers" of Belhaven, the members of which are originally from Washington County, will be on the air Saturday night at 8:15 o'clock, May 2, from Station WPTF, Raleigh, in one of their popular musical programs.

Clarence Ross tickles the guitar while Durwood Harris does likewise and Hack Lamb picks the banjo. If you like the old time string music, you should not fail to tune in on these popular performers Saturday evening at 8:15 o'clock from the Raleigh station.

RECORDER HAD ONLY ONE CASE HERE TUESDAY

Court Continues In Session Most of Day To Hear The One Case

The local recorder's court experienced a most unusual session here on Tuesday, in that only one case was tried, yet it consumed practically all day and one of the plaintiffs was a lawyer, and the other the son of a lawyer. They were: P. H. Bell, Plymouth's only colored barrister, and his son, Charles Bell. Wit, humor, and oratory were much in evidence during the trying of this case. Practically the entire colored population of Washington County was packed into the court room.

Waddell Cobb, local negro, had been arraigned on two counts, charged with an assault with a deadly weapon upon Attorney P. H. Bell, and with an assault upon Charles Bell.

According to the evidence, it seems that Waddell Cobb and a local colored school teacher, Ethel Griffin, had been keeping company. Cobb claimed that Charles Bell had made some remark about this lady friend which finally resulted in the two engaging in a fist fight in a ditch Tuesday night of last week. Later, it seems that Cobb and the Griffin negress went to the home of P. H. Bell on Thursday night of last week, at which time Cobb demanded to know why Bell's son had been "telling lies" on Ethel.

Accordingly, Bell ordered them from his house, but on reaching the door, Cobb landed a blow on Bell's head, which necessitated medical attention.

Attorney W. L. Whitley represented Cobb, while Solicitor Carl L. Bailey did the prosecuting.

It seems that Cobb is a member of the Elks, a colored fraternal organization here. His brother Elks were present in large numbers. One of these colored men remarked to a court official just before court convened, that "De Elks is backing Cobb." The court official replied that he didn't care if the cows were backing him.

The case was hard fought, a jury having been required, and both counsel for the state and the defense waxed eloquent in oratory. However, at the conclusion of arguments, the jury found Cobb guilty of a simple assault on the first count and guilty of an assault on the second count. Judge Edward L. Owens sentenced the defendant to 90 days on the roads on the first count, the sentence to be suspended upon payment of a \$20 fine and the cost, and 30 days on the roads on the second count, judgment to be suspended on payment of a \$5 fine and the cost. The defendant, however, appealed to the superior court.

'Little Tammany' Talks About Control of Radios

News comes from Norfolk that owners of radio receiving sets have not paid proper attention to the warning issued some months ago by the City Manager with regard to operation of loud speakers with unnecessary volume. Therefore, the city manager is considering recommending legislation to control the noise.

Several Plymouth citizens are of the opinion that a city ordinance to control noisy radio sets here would be an excellent idea. The matter is being discussed at the nightly session of "Tammany Hall," local smoke shop which is operated by Mr. Carstarphen.

Fire In Creswell Theatre Saturday; Little Damage

On receiving a telephone call for help when the theatre building at Creswell caught fire last Saturday night about 12 o'clock, the Plymouth Fire Department was set and ready to answer the call within a few minutes, when Chief Gurkin was notified that the fire had already been gotten under control.

The Creswell theatre is owned and operated by J. C. Gatlin. However, it is understood that little damage was done by the blaze.

County Federation of Woman's Home Demonstration Clubs Meets Here Today

::: Two Voices :::

Two mighty Voices speak to North Carolina and bid her lend them ear. One Voice says: "I speak in the name of Economy. Let us cut public school expenditures. Too long have we, the People, been spending more on education than we can afford. Our pocketbooks can not stand the burden of the present system. Retrenchment is in order."

The other Voice submits: "We are the Children of this State. As long as the average annual per capita expenditure for current expense in the public schools of North Carolina is only \$35.20, as compared with \$71.39 in the average State of the Union, the education we receive will not enable us to compete in the game of Life, on equal terms, with children educated in other States. We remind you that to those best educated belong opportunities for ownership of property, directorships of industry, and leadership in all walks of Life. If you will give us the chance to compete, we shall achieve these opportunities. The only way by which you can give us the opportunity to "burgeon out all there is within us" is also the only way by which you can protect North Carolina for North Carolinians. If the boys and girls who live in North Carolina today are to own, direct, and lead North Carolina in the years to come, then North Carolina must keep pace, educationally, with other States.—North Carolina Teacher.

Curious Pig Exhibited Here; Ancestors Evidently Came From Kinston Section

HAS EIGHT LEGS, 4 EARS, 2 TAILS

Born Dead, Monstrosity Is Embalmed and Put on Exhibition

Page Kinston, please. Plymouth is now the home of one of the most extraordinary monstrosities ever seen in this section of the state. It is a Hampshire-Duroc pig which was born here Wednesday morning. The pig has eight legs instead of the usual four; four ears instead of the usual two; two tails instead of the usual one; and, in fact, is practically two pigs with the exception that he has only one head, two eyes, and one nose.

The pig is the property of B. G. Campbell and Paul Gurganus. The sad part about this pig is that he was born dead. However, Mrs. Campbell, seeing an opportunity for making some money for the pipe organ fund of the Methodist church here, has had the pig embalmed at a local undertaker's establishment. Hence, the pig will be placed on display for the public to see at the Campbell Wholesale Company. Children will be charged five cents and adults ten cents to see this pig. And, as already stated, the money received will be used toward paying for the new pipe organ to be installed at the Methodist church.

Ellis Parker Butler may contend that "Pigs Is Pigs," but this pig is certainly more than the average pig. Not just every pig is equipped with two spare ears, four spare legs, and one spare tail. And not just every pig has the advantage of being embalmed, and placed on display for the public to see and marvel at.

Just what will ultimately be done with this pig is not known, but it has been suggested by some that after he has served his purpose as a show pig, that Colonel Fred S. Olds might be interested in giving him a permanent place in the State Museum at Raleigh.

Home Agent's Schedule For Week of May 4-9

Miss Pratt Covington, county home demonstration agent, announces that her schedule for next week will be as follows:

Monday, at Hoke; Tuesday, at Plymouth; Wednesday, at district meeting in Greenville; Thursday, at Chapel Hill and Zion Clubs at Chapel Hill; Friday at Roper; Saturday, curb market.

ROBT H. WRIGHT IS MAIN SPEAKER THIS AFTERNOON

Large Delegations of Club Women Expected At Session

In an interview with Miss Pratt Covington, home demonstration agent of Washington County here yesterday, many interesting facts relative to the county federation and home demonstration work were revealed.

It seems that the first Washington County Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs was held in the fall of 1928 at Creswell, on October 15th. At this meeting there was an attendance of 86 women and girls. The Literary Club of Plymouth had been invited, and practically the entire membership of this club was present.

Dr. Taylor, of State College, Raleigh, delivered a very interesting and instructive address on North Carolina's Great Green Patchwork Quilt. In short, he likened the state of North Carolina to a quilt in patchwork. This was declared by many to have been one of the best addresses ever delivered at the club federation.

In the spring of 1929, the federation met at Plymouth. Mrs. Jane S. McKimmon was the keynoter on this occasion, having delivered a lecture on "Child Training." When it became known that Mrs. McKimmon was to speak at this meeting, every woman in the county, it is said, determined to be present. And that many lived up to their determination is proved by the fact that something over three hundred women were present.

The Plymouth Chamber of Commerce pledged itself to the support of the Federation and gave a handsome silver trophy cup to be awarded to the club having the best attendance at the Federation meetings. The Creswell club went home the winner on this occasion with an enrollment of twenty members and an attendance of twenty of attendance.

During the fall of 1929, the Roper club and surrounding clubs were hostesses to the Federation. This meeting was unusually good. Between 400 and 500 people were present. A room-improvement project was on display which proved of much interest to club women, as every piece of furniture had been restored from "mere junk" to articles of worth and beauty.

Mr. Rose, farm agent from Hertford County, delivered a very delightful talk on Yard Improvement at this meeting, which was well remembered and suggestions he offered are in use in the county today.

WORK STARTED ON METHODIST CHURCH HERE

Building To Be Practically Rebuilt During Next Two Months

Work was commenced here Tuesday on the renovation of the Methodist church, which is expected to require approximately two months to complete and will cost several thousand dollars. When the work is finished, the Methodist church will practically be a new church out and out.

The building is being brick veneered and an addition is being added to the rear, extending back fourteen feet. The basement will be excavated and a modern steam heating plant installed. Both the exterior and interior will be made new, including hardwood floors. Sunday school rooms will be built in also.

A modern pipe organ will also be installed and when the work is finished the Methodist congregation will have one of the best and most modern church plants in this section of the county.

The ladies of the church are raising funds to help pay for the pipe organ. Rev. R. G. L. Edwards is the pastor of this church. A. L. Owens has general supervision of the construction work.

The present church building is among one of the oldest in this section of the state, having been built some time prior to the Civil War. It was used as an emergency hospital during the battle of Plymouth. The land upon which the church stands was deeded to the trustees of the church by Samuel Hardison on August 5, 1832.

County Farm Near Here Literally Carved Out of Wilderness by Supt. L. L. Basnight

Washington County, in one respect at least, is probably more fortunate than most other counties in Eastern Carolina. That is in providing employment for convicts. For the past four years Mr. L. L. Basnight has been county supervisor of roads, that job carrying with it the care of all prisoners sentenced in the county who are not sent to the penitentiary, and under his direction a very good farm has literally been made from a wilderness, convict labor having been used exclusively in reclaiming this land.

When Mr. Basnight took charge about four years ago, the county owned a tract of land about two miles south of here consisting of approxi-

mately 90 acres, 10 of which was cleared. There was no farming equipment to cultivate the cleared acres, which was divided into three different fields each of which was reached by a different road, and the woods and swamps between these fields were in such condition that a man could not even ride horseback from one field to another.

Without specific authority from the county commissioners Mr. Basnight began the task of clearing up the land on his own initiative, using what tools and equipment as came to hand. Today the county is in possession of 70 cleared acres as a result of the supervisor's work, practically all of which will be planted to some crop this season.

Fourteen acres have been cut over, stumps removed and some sowed to rye since last September.

The amount of work required can only be appreciated by those who visit the farm and observe the operations. Drainage ditches are first dug, then gangs are sent in to cut down the trees and undergrowth, trim, pile, and burn the foliage, haul the wood out for use at the camp, and when that is finished stumps must be pulled up and the roots raked and burned. Besides the work on the farm, several gangs must be kept busy making repairs and improvements to the roads of the county.

Recently, for instance, with a force (Continued on the back page)

Holy Communion at the Grace Church Sunday

Rev. A. Marshall, Rector
Sunday school at 10 a. m.
Holy Communion and Sermon at 11:00 a. m.