

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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10-WORD STORY BY LAMPLIGHTER HERE WINS PRIZE

N. Deshields, Native of This County, Tells of Old Oil Lamps Here

An original story of less than 200 words submitted by a native of Washington County to the publishers of "The Beacon," relating to the activities of the old lamplighter in Plymouth, was awarded a valuable prize by the publishers of the book on original stories; after a score of years the author, who recently visited his home, here he got the material for the article.

The author was Z. N. Deshields, now pastor of the First Christian church at Sandusky, Ohio, who was born in the Pea Ridge section of Scuppernon township in Washington County 42 years ago. He went to school in Plymouth for years before he left to continue his work in other sections. The lamplighter was John Pettiford, who lived in the Sugar Hill part of town years ago.

This is the story as it appears in the widely read book: "When I was a boy living in Plymouth, a little town in eastern North Carolina, the used kerosene lamps to light the streets, and an old negro man was employed for many years to light these lamps every evening. This old man's lights have never faded from my memory. He would move on a lamp to lamp, leaving the town behind him.

Many times since those days have I thought what a beautiful lesson the lamplighter taught. He would come on sometimes in the blackest of nights, but would always leave a light behind him, so that those who were in the dark would have no occasion for complaining. So the Christian is to push forward one good deed to another, never dark and uncertain the way, leaving a trail of light in which those who come after may safely walk.

Not long ago the minister was here, spent some time conversing with the old folks, including P. W. Brown, W. Clifton, J. W. Cooper, G. W. Bowler, R. R. White, and J. H. Smith. Deshields has been a minister for many years.

EXTEND THANKS FOR DONATIONS

Cooperation Aids Mr. and Mrs. Brewer To Start Their Work at Once

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Brewer thank their friends in Plymouth and Washington County for their generous cooperation, which made it possible for them to begin work at once. Visitors are already being made with things and food distributed.

Mr. and Mrs. Brewer are especially grateful to the following people, whose contributions completely outfitted a room apartment in a single day: V. R. Hampton, 3 beds and mattresses; C. L. Groves, 5-piece breakfast suite; O. H. Lyon, 5-burner oil k stove; Mrs. House, 1 dresser and lockers; Mrs. E. G. Arps, 1 table mirror; Mrs. Overton, 1 dresser. Not one cent was spent for the above items, as T. C. Burgess did the giving gratis. Mr. and Mrs. Brewer prepared their bed linens, coverings, dishes, and cooking utensils in their home in Winston-Salem.

An appeal is made for a used heater for a very old lady. Any one having one, please notify Mr. Brewer, and will call for it. Also an appeal is made for toys that can be mended and used in the special Christmas effort.

Special mention is also made and thanks extended to the Brinkley Home, which furnished free lodging to workers while they were getting things in shape.

Mr. and Mrs. Brewer desire the prayers of the Christian people that they may be used for good.

Christmas Program at the Methodist Church Sunday

John W. Harrell, minister. Sunday school at 10 o'clock a. m. W. Norman, superintendent. Morning worship, 11 o'clock a. m., conducted by the pastor. Evening service at 7:30 p. m. There will be special Christmas music by the choir and also the pastor will bring Christmas messages at both morning and evening services.

Joe Leggett Suffers Injury to His Eye While Playing

Joe Leggett, little brother of O. R. Leggett, is suffering from an injury to the eye that was accidentally inflicted by Pete Price Sunday, while the two boys were playing on Jefferson Street. A blunt object is thought to have struck the youth in the face, narrowly missing his eye-ball.

Stage All Set for Christmas in Washington County; Holiday Spirit Evident Everywhere

The stage is set for the Christmas drama—and the holiday spirit is gripping Washington County.

The age-old pageantry that is enacted in the Yule season of each year is firing the depressed folk in this section as shoppers descend on the retail stores here during the week-ends to purchase gifts that they may spread good cheer despite a semblance of gloom that is a product of the times.

A sun that is almost as bright as the spring time beamed down on the country-side adding its charms to the holiday scene for a time this week, and shoppers took

advantage of the weather to hasten their Christmas buying. School children will add thrills to the occasion this week-end as the schools have closed for about two weeks.

Christmas trees are being sold by vendors who are plying their trade on the streets. Fir and cedar are predominant this season, with a scattering of holly. Turkeys can be engaged at this time for the happy Christmas dinner. Stores have entered into the spirit of the season and are decorated in their holiday attire awaiting the encouraging words of the purchasers.

Not only have the business houses

joined in the spirit of the occasion as in many places can be found residences that are shedding forth the cheer with its own characteristic and picturesque decorations. The downtown business area is enveloped in a number of multi-colored lights that were arranged by the town. Malls have shown a little increase as is usual on this occasion.

Fraternal organizations, civic clubs, society, and the schools are being thrilled with addresses, essays and poems about Christmas. Relief organizations in town have already begun their work here to care for the needy.

TEACHERS AND PARENTS MEET ROPER FRIDAY

First Grade Presented A Christmas Program For Parents

Roper.—The first A grade of the local school presented the program at the meeting of the parent-teacher association here last Friday night. The play was of the Christmas variety, being very appropriate. Included among the speakers were James W. Norman, superintendent of public instruction, and T. J. Swain, chairman of the county board of education.

A hundred shrubs had been planted on the campus by the committee on the improvement of the grounds, it was reported by the chairman, L. E. Hassell. Reports were also made by Miss Ruth McKellar, who revealed that the library committee had aided in adding 250 new volumes, while Mrs. L. S. Bray, as chairman, told of the work of the committee of grade mothers.

The eleventh grade, with Miss Sally Taylor, as teacher, was awarded the prize for having the best attendance at the meeting from the high school, while the first grade, with Miss Carrie Jane Herman, as teacher, won the elementary award. Mrs. J. B. Hurley is president and Miss Sally Taylor, recording secretary. There were 125 present at the meeting.

URGES MADE-IN- STATE PRESENTS

Use of State-made Products Will Result In a More Cheerful Outlook

Merchants here have received a list of goods made in North Carolina that includes wearing apparel and accessories, things for the home, toys, books, and other articles designed to bring pleasure to their users, from the State Department of Conservation and Development, which is making an effort to acquaint the people and encourage the use of State products.

"Christmas shoppers are going to buy useful things this year, and all the home-made goods bought by home merchants will give manufacturing plants additional working time, create more wages and more buying power. This will result in a more cheerful outlook," according to Director Harrelson, who urges prominence of these goods in the show windows and on the counters.

Three Cases In Recorder's Court Here Last Tuesday

An appeal was noted by George Bryant in recorder's court here Tuesday from a sentence of 12 months on the roads for violation of the prohibition law. Joe Nathan Phelps was given 60 days for resisting Officer Coburn, who arrested him while drunk. Prayer for judgment was continued in the case of Hallett Wynne, who was found guilty of reckless driving. His sentence will be passed December 22.

Special Christmas Day Service at Grace Church

"A Christmas Mystery and Manger Service" will be presented at the Grace Episcopal Church here Christmas afternoon at 5 o'clock under the direction of Miss Helen Duval. Gifts will be taken for the Galilee Lake Mission on Lake Phelps. Christmas carols will also be sung. A pageant will be given. There will also be a celebration of the Holy Nativity.

1,119 Children Attended the County Schools Last Year

Public schools in Washington County were operated for a total of 160 days last term, and this system is one of the score of counties to operate for this number of days in the State, with 1,119 white children. The average term in days for the colored was the same, with 1,254 children.

TO BE OUT EARLY

To better serve our subscribers and advertisers The Beacon will be issued on Tuesday of next week getting into Wednesday's mail so as to bring fresh news of the market to shoppers seeking last-minute reminders of Christmas commercial news. Correspondents are urged to get their copy into the Beacon office by Monday night.

SAYS CALIFORNIA PEANUTS NOT TO AFFECT MARKET

Kelford Man Returns From Recent Visit There; Costs Too High

Kelford, Dec. 16.—Talking with friends in Kelford a few days ago, Mr. J. P. Harrington, of Lewistown, who has just returned from California, where he has been in the interest of the Harrington peanut machinery, says that he does not think that California will be a competitor in the peanut field of Eastern Carolina and Tidewater Virginia for some time yet, and gave several reasons why, among them being the high cost of labor, from \$3 to \$6 a day, growing peanuts by artificial irrigation and the quality of nuts they grow. However, they do not have to stack their crop as we do here in the East, as they are cured on the ground after digging.

Mr. Harrington says that this year's crop, which is their first, are of a grade between our No. 1 bunch and our Jumbos, and will all be used for seeding their 1932 crop.

Mr. Harrington went to California at the request of a large corporation that is interested in peanuts and will furnish seed and fertilizer and contract with farmers to cultivate the crop, the corporation doing the harvesting after the crop is made and dug. Mr. Harrington says that the West is a fine and beautiful country and has many interesting features to be admired, but he would advise all who wish to live in God's country to stay in Eastern Carolina.

TO MAKE WAR ON BAD HEADLAMPS

Blinding Lights Declared To Be One of Greatest Menaces on Road

If the headlights of your car blind the driver coming in the opposite direction, you may be instructed by officers of the State Highway Patrol to do something about it, according to Captain Charles D. Farmer, of the patrol, who is backed up by a rule adopted by the State Highway Commission. The rule was passed in order to place every motorist on an equal basis as regards the strength of his auto headlights. Prescribing a uniform and proper headlight service, the Highway Department has named several hundred official service stations throughout the State to render assistance to motor car owners.

Captain Farmer attributes many highway accidents to drivers becoming blinded by glaring headlights. He said, "It would seem that every man now figures on having the biggest and strongest light so as to overcome the glare of the other fellow's lights. A blind man is not permitted to drive a car, yet a man who can not see through the rays of another's glaring headlights is virtually a blind man, and there is no telling what he will do.

"The highway death toll in North Carolina is still going up. It has got to go down. Two of the chief causes of night accidents are blinding headlights and the lack of a rear light, and the Highway Commission has ruled them from the highway. We have stations set up to eliminate this trouble, and we hope the public will cooperate with us in taking advantage of the service now offered."

J. B. Echerd, of Taylorsville, Alexander County, produced 128 bushels of corn on one acre this fall.

LEAF GROWERS GET \$21,000,000.00 LESS FOR CROP

North Carolina Production of Tobacco 56,199,385 Pounds Under 1930

Marketing 56,199,385 pounds less than they did last year up to December 1, North Carolina tobacco growers received \$21,747,333 less up to December this year than they received up to that time last year.

The amount marketed this year was smaller by 56,199,385 pounds, but the price average was smaller \$9.62 a hundred pounds as compared with \$13.57 for the same period last year, when lower prices for cigarettes prevailed.

Up to December 1 of this year, the latest data available, producers had received a total of \$34,364,765.92 for their tobacco, and warehousemen estimated that 78 per cent of the crop had been marketed. On the same date last year they had received \$56,112,098.93.

The \$34,364,765.92 paid to producers so far this year was for 357,222,099 pounds of tobacco. The producers received for 413,421,484 pounds in the same period last year the sum of \$56,112,098.93.

Prices paid this year have held considerably under the average of 1930, the November, 1931, average price for 100 pounds being \$8.81, against \$13.92 in November, 1930.

MANY TURN TO COTTON CO-OPS

State Association Now Has Total of 13,245 Members

Raleigh.—To hold their crop from a depressed market, North Carolina and Virginia cotton growers continue to turn to cooperative marketing with the result that, without any special sign-up campaign, the membership in the North Carolina Cotton Growers Cooperative Association has scaled the 13,000 mark and reached 13,245, a new high for the season.

Although the cotton delivery season normally would be about over by this time, deliveries to the cooperative are still coming in encouraging amounts. General Manager U. Benton Blalock said. He attributed this to the fact that, unlike former years, considerable cotton was not pooled directly from the gin, but was hauled home and stored in anticipation of a rise in prices which would justify an increase in the cooperative advance.

Under the cooperative plan, however, the advance paid members will be supplemented when prices rise to a point to justify it. And, knowing this, many growers are hauling their cotton away from their individual sheds where it is endangered by fire and theft and storing it with the cooperative in its fireproof warehouses.

Peanuts grown after a crop of soybeans grazed last season gave a yield of 1,960 pounds an acre this year and peanuts after peanuts gave a yield of 1,620 pounds an acre in a demonstration in Bertie County.

House-To-House Canvass for Old Clothing Here Saturday

The relief committee, through Z. V. Norman, chairman of the clothing committee, Plymouth Division, is making an appeal for contributions of old clothing for the destitute and unfortunate. W. M. Brewer, of the Salvation Army, is having many calls for clothing and shoes, especially since the arrival of cold weather. This is an appeal to which everybody should respond.

Those who are fortunate, comfortable and warm, are called upon to assist in the relief of those less fortunate.

TWO RECITALS ARE GIVEN BY PIANO PUPILS

Pupils of Mrs. Ernest Hicks Please Audiences With Their Two Programs

Two recitals have been given by the piano pupils of Mrs. Ernest H. Hicks.

The first was given last Thursday afternoon by the pupils of elementary school age in the chapel hour of the Plymouth High School, with the students and patrons attending.

Participating were Anne Liverman, Joan Stier, Wilford Whitley, Mary Elizabeth Bray, Helen Harrison, Evelyn Arps, Harriet Heynen, Lillian Reid McGowan, Katherine Midgett. In addition to the piano music there was singing. Duets, trios, solos, and quartets were featured by voice and instruments.

The second was presented Wednesday afternoon at the chapel service with the high school age children playing and others joining in the folk dancing. Singing games were also enjoyed.

Those on the program included Elgern Manning, Naomi Weede, Virginia Norman, Edith Edmondson, Mary Lillian Campbell, Frances Jones, Ann Liverman, Katherine Midgett, Mary Elizabeth Bray, Wilford Whitley, Cornelia Edmondson, and Helen Harrison.

LEAF TOBACCO EXPORTS OFF 11 PER CENT

Shipments To England Are Off, While China Is Buying More

Exports of leaf tobacco from the United States during the first ten months of 1931 registered a decline of 11 per cent from the corresponding period of 1930, but were within 4 per cent of the total for the 1929 period, according to the Commerce Department's Tobacco Division.

The total for the current year's period was 409,000,000 pounds, in comparison with 460,000,000 in 1930, and 427,000,000 in 1929.

Export value, reflecting price trends in foreign markets, registered sharper declines than the export volumes. Total leaf exports in 1931 were valued at \$83,503,000, a decline of 24 per cent, compared with the first ten months of 1930 and 23 per cent compared with a similar period of 1929. Although there were actual price increases on certain types, the export price trend on the whole was downward, the average for all leaf in 1931 reaching only 20.4 cents a pound, compared with 23.9 cents in 1930 and 25.3 cents in 1929. Maryland and Ohio export and Green River were exported during the period under review for 30 cents and 27.1 cents per pound, respective price increases of 7.1 cents and 2.8 cents, compared with 1930 prices. There was also an increase in the export price of stems, trimmings, and scrap, large amounts of which have been utilized in foreign cigarette industries for the manufacture of cheap cigarettes.

Exports of flue-cured tobacco from January to October of 1931 amounted to 290,562,000 pounds, valued at \$64,479,000, a decrease of 3.5 per cent in quantity and 21.6 per cent in value, compared with last year. The United Kingdom and China are the principal foreign markets for flue-cured tobacco and shipments to the United Kingdom during the current year has decreased by 26,000,000 pounds, compared with 1930, while shipments to China have increased by 16,000,000 pounds. Trade observers have experienced the opinion that both these countries have a potential market for much more American tobacco before the year ends.

Wayne Land Owners To Reduce Tobacco Acreage

Weil Brothers, of Goldsboro, among the largest land owners of Wayne County, will reduce their tobacco acreage next year and plant none on poor land.

Use of State Theatre for One Sunday Each Month Offered, Proceeds To Be Given Charity

RATTLESNAKE BITE

Wenona.—Burdie Hudson, 18 years of age, is still up today despite a bite inflicted on his hand by a rattlesnake Saturday night while in Plymouth. The youth was handling the snake, catching it too low from his head when the reptile bit his mouth and inflicted the bite.

It happened while the boy was showing the reptile to a crowd who was standing around him. The youth sucked the blood from his veins and took other precautions against poisoning. The reptile was in a sack.

SAYS MACHINERY FOR FARM USE AT LOW PRICE LEVEL

Prices Are Still Out of Proportion With Value of Products, However

The farmer's dollar is buying more in the way of materials and labor when he purchases a new farm machine than in anything else he uses at this period, suggests David S. Weaver, agricultural engineer at State College.

Mr. Weaver has made a comparison of prices of machinery with other articles used on the farm, and finds them priced at a lower level. Such equipment as corn planters, cultivators, harrows, sulky plows, rakes, and wagons are selling at a much lower price level than washing machines, ranges, milk cans, lawn mowers, and the like.

"It would be desirable if prices for farm machinery and other commodities could be maintained at a price level fixed according to the price paid for farm products, but this is impossible," says Mr. Weaver. "True it is that farm products prices have some effect on the wages paid to manufacture farm machinery, but such effects are always slow. Wholesale prices are slow in affecting retail prices and retail prices are slow in affecting wages."

Mr. Weaver finds that less than five cents of every dollar received for farm products was spent for new farm equipment during the years between 1924 and 1930. Included in this five cents were almost every kind of power farming and field equipment. At the same time 12 1-2 cents of the farm dollar was spent for labor eight cents for taxes; 7 1-2 cents interest and indebtedness; 15 to 20 cents for automobiles; 20 cents for food; 15 cents for clothes and 10 cents for fertilizers.

Additional proof that farm machinery is low in price is that no foreign machines are imported, despite the fact that no tariff protects the manufacturer. Most other similarly manufactured products are well protected by a high tariff, he says.

DEATH OF MRS. WILLIAM WILEY

Beloved Woman Dies At Her Home In Creswell After Short Illness

Creswell.—Mrs. William Wiley, one of the most beloved women of this community, died here December 7. She had been sick only a short time. Funeral services were conducted from the Methodist church by the pastor, Rev. J. C. Russell, who was assisted by the Rev. Mr. Hollowell, of the Baptist church, and the Rev. C. E. Williams, of the Episcopal church. Active pall-bearers were nephews of the deceased.

Mrs. J. Walter Starr sang a solo while the casket was in the church. Assisting in the music was a choir of many friends. The body was interred in the family burying ground at White Chapel. A massive heap of pretty flowers covered the grave.

Creswell Meetings-Teachers Hold Meeting Thursday

Creswell.—The Creswell Graded School Parent-Teacher Association held a largely attended meeting in the school auditorium Thursday night. Rev. Russell, pastor of the Creswell Methodist Protestant church, conducted the devotional exercises. Mrs. H. G. Walker, president of the association, presided over the meeting.

A delightful Christmas program was rendered by the second, third, and fourth grade pupils, under the direction of Misses Swain, Craddock, and Stillman.

At the close of the meeting, the hospitality committee, under the direction of its chairman, Mrs. Viola Smithson, served a course of delicious refreshments to those present.

COMMITTEE ASKS FOR EXPRESSION FROM RESIDENTS

Gordon Brothers Offer Use Of Theatre Here One Sunday Each Month

The State Theatre has very generously offered the use of their theater on one Sunday each month for the next four months as a donation to the local fund for unemployment and relief. The plans contemplated are to have the theater open from 1 o'clock to 6 o'clock in the afternoon, and the sale of tickets to be handled by various committees to be appointed later. The committee having the financial work in charge greatly appreciate this offer made by the Gordon brothers.

At a meeting of the Plymouth Division of the county-wide relief organization, consisting of T. J. Swain, chairman, also in charge of food; Zeb Vance Norman, in charge of clothing; and A. H. Stier, in charge of finances, it was decided that they would like to have an expression from all of the people of Plymouth as to what should be done in connection with the offer, made by the State Theatre, remembering, of course, that the theater will receive no financial benefit whatsoever. On the other hand, it may have a tendency to reduce attendance on Monday and Tuesday.

Zeb Vance Norman communicated with the Executive Secretary of the Governor's Council in regard to the advisability of having the theatre open on Sunday, and he received this answer:

"There is an old law of about 60 or 70 years old that prohibits the showing of a moving picture on Sunday. This law carries a \$1 fine, according to my information from the Attorney General's office. On the other hand, the Attorney General informed me that the State does not intend to enforce this law for any theater that gives a Sunday moving picture attraction for charity. Even though some local organization in your own community should attempt to enforce this law, they would be able to fine you only \$1.

"We are showing pictures in Raleigh and many other places throughout the State for charitable purposes."

The committee would particularly solicit an expression from the ministers and the city council, and the law-enforcing agencies in the county and town, and they will be glad to be governed by the will of the people.

W. ROBERTSON DIES NEAR HERE

In Poor Health For Several Months, Mr. Robertson Died Last Saturday

Funeral services were held Saturday for Willis Robertson, 75 years of age, who died suddenly in his home near here last Friday. He had been in declining health for years and the end, although sudden, was not altogether unexpected. He was born in Nansemond County in Virginia. His parents were born in Ireland. Burial took place in a near-by plot.

Surviving Mr. Robertson are the following children and a widow, Mrs. Tabitha Davenport and Mrs. P. E. Whedbee, of Plymouth; Edward Robertson, of Hamilton; and Dock Robertson, of near Plymouth.

More Cotton Ginned In County Than Last Year

A dozen more bales of cotton was ginned in Washington County prior to December 1 for the crops of 1930 and 1931 than was the case for the same time last year, when there was a total of 1,102 bales ginned, according to statistics from the United States Department of Commerce that issued the information through the Bureau of Census. This is a preliminary report.

Club Members Average 58 Bushels Corn Per Acre

Fourteen 4-H club members of Clay County grew an average of 58 bushels of corn an acre this season, as compared with the county average of 15 bushels an acre.

Lespedeza More Than Doubles Yield of Corn

Corn after a two-year growth of lespedeza produced 45 bushels an acre, as compared with 20 bushels an acre, where no lespedeza was turned under, says L. P. Sherman, of Rousemont, Person County.