

CLEAN SWEEP IS MADE BY DEMOCRATS

WITNESS CLAIMS HE WAS BRIBED IN V. E. P. CASE

Sensational Charges Made By Maurice Whedbee in Deposition

Sensational revelations of alleged bribery and false evidence in the case of the suits brought against the Virginia Electric and Power Company by 22 citizens of Washington County for damage by forest fires said to have been caused by employees of the power firm are expected to be investigated by the grand jury at the January term of superior court.

This development in the case came about last Thursday afternoon, when Maurice Whedbee, 19 years of age, star witness in the case, upon whose testimony the plaintiffs based the major part of their evidence, in a startling deposition taken before Commissioner J. Tom McNair, when the youth again changed his testimony, branding as false an affidavit that he had signed previously.

The youth, on the stand in the trial of the suits when they came up in June of this year, told of going into the woods to see the power men, but failed to give a reason, and that he saw the employees of the Virginia Electric and Power Company and the Stone & Webster engineering firm of New York start a fire in some brush, neglecting this fire, which burned thousands of acres of woodland.

Since this case has been up in the supreme court for a decision, the youth made an affidavit before C. V. W. Ausbon, clerk of the Washington County Superior Court, denying that he had been in the woods to see these men and that the testimony that he gave in the case was absolutely false.

This affidavit was presented to the supreme court as new evidence in an effort to get a new trial or to have the case dismissed, and before the case could get much older, young Whedbee came into the commissioners' court here last Thursday and made a public deposition that all the statements made in the affidavit are false.

Prior to his repudiation of this affidavit a couple of jurors in the case that awarded the farmers damages amounting to more than \$60,000, signed statements whereby they agreed that if Whedbee did make false statements in the court trial they would not have rendered their verdict in favor of the plaintiffs, and a third juror told this to attorneys of the farmers.

The affidavit which young Whedbee signed came when the youth went to the office of Zeb Vance Norman, an attorney for the power firm, and explained that he desired to make an affidavit that the information which he gave on the stand was untrue, and Mr. Norman had him to sign the statements before the clerk of the court and the boy then stated that no influence was used in getting him to change his testimony.

But last Thursday in the deposition the young witness boldly stated that Elmer R. Jackson, a councilman of Plymouth and a prominent man in the county, offered him \$100 and paid him \$80 of the amount, to make the affidavit that he made before the clerk of the court and that he has been unable to collect the other \$20.

Continuing in the deposition he asserted that he used about \$46 of the amount to purchase a motorcycle and further explained something of what he did with the remainder of the money, little of which he used for clothes or food.

Before signing the affidavit denying his first court testimony young Whedbee told in his deposition that he told Roy Davenport of the matter and declared that Davenport had advised him to accept the money for repudiating his testimony "if it was enough," and then the youth turned over the signed affidavit.

It is understood that young Whedbee is under a suspended sentence for breaking into a store here, and his changing of testimony may result in further sentence if he is tried for this purpose. Attorneys for the power company are Frank Spruill, Rocky Mount, and Z. V. Norman here, while H. S. Ward, Mr. Grimes, of Washington, and E. L. Owens, of Plymouth, represent the 22 men bringing the suit.

No opportunity was given Mr. Jackson, who was accused of bribing Whedbee to sign the affidavit to defend himself, but he will be given a chance in court to make his statements.

County Federation of Home Clubs Meets This Afternoon

The fall meeting of the Federation of Women's Home Demonstration Clubs in Washington County will meet in the Plymouth High School Building Friday, November 11, at 2:30 o'clock, it was announced today by Miss Eugenia Patterson, home agent. Reports of the year's work will be given by the clubs in the form of a stunt or playlet to add interest to the occasion. A cup will be presented to the club with the best attendance computed with the number of miles traveled. A song will open the meeting at the hour named.

Invocation will be by Rev. Rich

ard Lucas, pastor of the Baptist church. Mrs. George W. Bowen will make the address of welcome, while Mrs. Edison Davenport will make the responding speech. Special music will feature the program. Officers will be elected for the coming year. Miss Helen N. Estabrook, an extension worker for State College, will be the principal speaker for the occasion. Mrs. William H. Harrison, from the Long Acre section, will preside over the session. Miss Patterson will also be on the program. Everybody is urged to attend, whether a member of the association or not.

AUDITOR CALLED ON TO EXPLAIN ITEMS IN REPORT

Irregularities in Cash Account Are Denied by City Clerk

Decision to have Frank L. Wall, certified public accountant of the firm of James Williams and Company, of Raleigh, who audited the books of the town of Plymouth the first of October to appear before the city council soon to recite in detail some parts of his audit, was made at a meeting of the city fathers Monday night.

This resolution was passed when Moye W. Spruill, city clerk, denied that he had issued a check dated in June to the town of Plymouth, signed by himself or the Friendly Coal Company. Mr. Spruill seemingly admitted that he did put into the cash drawer and take out cash for checks issued on September 28 and on October 1, 1932, by him and the Friendly Coal Co., of which firm he is a partner.

The total amount of the checks for which Mr. Spruill is alleged to have issued over his signature or that of his firm and to have taken cash from the drawer of the town in payment for the checks was totaled at over \$1,200. The checks remained in the drawer as cash until October 14, 1932, after the audit had begun on October 12, and two days after the audit began he put the cash in the drawer and destroyed the checks.

These checks, whatever the number is, totaled \$384.83, signed by W. M. Spruill, and \$843.72 signed by Mr. Spruill under the name of the Friendly Coal Co. The accountant rendered a report on a work sheet after showing in the audit that he had found these personal and Friendly Coal Co. checks in the drawer along with other current checks.

The city council found that Mr. Spruill had made every cent of the checks good, but they were displeased with the use of the town's funds by Mr. Spruill over this period of time when the money was probably needed to pay current obligations, and they decided, in fairness to all, to have Mr. Wall present with his work sheet, as Mr. Spruill was not present when the audit was explained the first time.

It was also moved and seconded that the advertising of the delinquent tax list for the town of Plymouth be postponed until December, and then be advertised and sold the first of January.

It was decided to allow the firemen a total of \$42.40 for use in putting in windows and wall boarding their quarters. It was also passed on that Chief L. W. Gurkin be instructed to use Sinclair gasoline for the fire truck and that the contract be canceled. There was no second to a motion by E. R. Jackson that the fire truck be used solely for extinguishing fires and drilling. This followed an objection because the truck was used in a parade.

Chief of Police Brown was authorized to use labor employed by the welfare fund here in capping and repairing the wharf back of the market. The town would furnish the lumber, the labor to be without cost to the town. Also the front of the market is to be painted with the town furnishing the paint and with welfare labor.

Walter H. Paramore was appointed a councilman from the first ward to succeed A. E. Brothers, who lost his seat by removing his residence from Plymouth. Mr. Paramore will serve until May.

Because he has caught 900 ground hogs during the past 3 years, James Jerry, of Tazewell County, Va., believes that he should be dubbed the world's champion ground hog trapper.

RED CROSS WILL BEGIN ITS DRIVE ON NOVEMBER 11

Every Person in County Is Asked To Become Member

Today marks the beginning of the national roll call period of the American Red Cross, as it begins with Armistice Day, November 11, lasting until Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 1932, and every person in Washington County is asked to become a member of the organization by Dr. R. L. Whitehurst, secretary of the county.

Membership buttons that are to be worn during the roll call period and window service flags to be displayed in windows and the membership cards are to be given only to those who become a member by paying not less than \$1. The Woman's Club here under the supervision of Mrs. Minnie Cahoon, the president, will be in charge of the membership canvass.

The Red Cross memberships are: Annual, \$1; contributing \$5; sustaining, \$10; supporting, \$25. Fifty cents of each membership, no matter how much subscribed, goes to the national organization, while the remainder is used for local relief work. Any one giving less than \$1 will not be accounted a member but will be known as a contributor.

This organization is doing a great work in this country. No funds were given to them by the Federal Government when the Red Cross was designated as official agents to distribute the free flour to needy over this country. And they have been aiding in several ways.

So men and women in all walks of life are urged to be as liberal as possible when they meet these workers on the street, beginning today, and remember that not matter how much the contribution, only 50 cents goes to the national organization, and the remainder is used in Washington County.

Baby Popularity Contest Under Way At Creswell

Creswell.—Much interest is being manifested by the mothers of Creswell in a baby popularity contest which is to be conducted here under the auspices of the parent-teacher association.

A parade will be staged Monday afternoon, November 14, at 2:30 o'clock in which at least 30 children or more will participate.

Mrs. Lennie P. Jackson, chairman of the ways and means committee of the parent-teacher association is managing the contest. She is being assisted by Mesdames A. L. Holmes, C. H. Rabon, Miss Stella Johnson, and Miss Hilda Credle.

Little Girl Dies At Home Of Parents Near Here

Funeral services for the 4-month-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edmond Ambrose, were held at the home on Saturday afternoon. The little girl died Friday of bronchial pneumonia. The services were in charge of Rev. J. Bascom Hurley, and interment was made in the family grave yard on the Chapel Hill road.

Local Players Lose in Washington Tournament

Bob Cahoon and Robert Campbell competed in the tennis tournament in Washington last Wednesday where, in the singles, Herrington defeated Campbell, 6-2, 6-4; while Respass defeated Cahoon, 6-3, 6-4. In the doubles Washington defeated Plymouth 9-7, 6-4. The return game was held here on Thursday of this week.

Carried County by 2 to 1 Margin; Victory Reaches Landslide Proportions in Nation

RAIN FAILS TO DAMPEN ARDOR OF DEMOCRATS

Skimmersville Precinct Goes Democratic for First Time in 75 Years

A drizzling rain did not dampen the ardor of the faithful Democrats, who are smarting under the burdens of a depression that has come about in a Republican administration and they went to the polls in Washington County Tuesday in record-breaking numbers.

Aside from the monotony of the continual string of voters who filed into the polls to deposit their ballots for their favorites there was the usual drama that attends such an event of such great importance and the conclusion of this drama is nothing different from the usual years except the strength of the Democratic party.

Skimmersville came through for Democracy with her first majority in 75 years, thus clearly demonstrating the possibility of Democracy carrying the county at some later date, or maybe to pave a way for another avalanche of votes.

Mrs. Grace H. Swain led the Republican ticket with 903 votes in her campaign for the office of register of deeds, but she was administered a decided defeat by her opponent, Mrs. Mary O. Sawyer. Joe G. Dixon, on the losing county commissioner's ticket, also played up a good number of votes. Most of the scratching was done on these tickets.

Sheriff J. K. Reid made a good showing on the ticket as well as some of the others. All the ticket for the Democrats was elected, with the state and national. No returns had been filed here of the amendments, which were also voted on in the election.

POULTRY FEEDS TOPIC AT MEET

E. N. Meekins Speaker at Session Creswell Poultry Association

By C. H. RABON
Creswell.—Feeds and feeding of poultry was the subject for discussion at the meeting of the Creswell Poultry Association last Wednesday night.

E. N. Meekins, supervisor of vocational agriculture for the Washington County district, was present at the meeting and he talked to the group from every angle on the advantages of careful feeding for egg production and also the feeding of young stock. He listed on the board the mash mixtures, both for laying hens and baby chicks that he thought would obtain the best results. The grain mixture was also listed.

After discussing the feeding problem, the club decided that it was cheaper to buy the different elements contained in the mixture and mix them rather than to buy ready mixed. The advantages in home mixing are (1) it gives a chance to utilize that spare time which would otherwise be lost, (2) about 50 per cent of both the mash and grain mixtures is composed of corn, which is one element that would not have to be bought. (3) The grower knows exactly what proportions are because he will have weighed them himself. In order to obtain from hens the results expected from them, careful attention must be given to the feeding problems.

Even though the prices of any farm product is low, poultry is one enterprise that can be made to pay a profit by organizing and working together, and it means a great help to the individual and to the community.

Historical Service At Roper Church Sunday

Roper.—Next Sunday at 11 o'clock, an historical service will be held at the Roper Methodist church. The history of the church for past 50 years will be reviewed. Some very interesting facts concerning the pastors, people, and community will be examined.

This will be a very unique service, the like of which has never been held here before. A full attendance of the membership, and all who are interested, is urged by the pastor, Rev. J. Bascom Hurley.

How the County Voted

Table with columns: Totals, Wenoa, Skimmersville, Lees Mills, Plymouth. Rows include For State Senate, For Representative, For Sheriff, For Register of Deeds, For Treasurer, For Coroner, Recorder's Court Judge, County Commissioners.

HAPPENINGS AT ROPER SCHOOL

Parent-Teacher Association Held Regular Meeting Wednesday

Roper.—The parent-teachers association held its regular meeting on Wednesday night, October 26, at the school auditorium. Plans were laid for a school lunch room, and a committee appointed to prepare for the serving of the lunch. The beautification of the grounds with labor paid from the Federal Aid Fund was discussed. Miss Piland, home demonstration agent of Tyrrell county, has drawn up plans for this work. The seventh and eleventh grades won the prizes for the attendance of the parents.

Louis Phillip Horntal Transferred To Suffolk

Louis Phillip Horntal, prominent young man of Plymouth, has been transferred to Suffolk, Va., where he will be employed at the home office plant of the Planters Nut & Chocolate Company. Mr. Horntal represented this firm in Washington County for a number of years succeeding his father.

The young man is well known in this county, having bought peanuts for this firm here, and now he will probably be a platform peanut buyer for the concern in Suffolk.

Creswell Parent-Teacher Association Meets 11th

Creswell.—The parent-teacher association of Creswell Graded School will hold its regular meeting Friday night, November 11, at 7:30 o'clock. This will be a good time meeting, at which songs will be sung and games played. Refreshments will be served to the members. All patrons are urged to come out and enjoy the evening together.

Local Gridder To Play LaGrange Here Friday

LaGrange will be played here Friday afternoon by the Plymouth High School grid stars. They defeated Kingston, 7 to 6, earlier in the season and are expected to give the fans here a good game.

Services At White Chapel Church Sunday Night

E. H. Liverman will speak at the services at the White Chapel Christian church, near E. Pritchett's store, at 7:30 Sunday night. There will be a quartet of adults on the program as well as young singers. Good music and an interesting message is assured. Everybody is urged to attend.

UNEMPLOYED TO BE GIVEN JOBS

Plans Being Made To Hire Needy Rather Than Give Doles

Organizations are being perfected in Washington County to assist the county welfare workers, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Brewer, in working out some plan to beautify and repair school buildings and grounds, according to recommendations made by an advisory board, which was organized in Plymouth with the following members present at the first meeting on October 27: E. H. Liverman, W. F. Winslow, W. H. Paramore, W. F. Clark, Abe Adler, W. C. Brewer, George W. Hardison, Rev. Richard Lucas, Dr. J. W. Harrell, Mrs. Mary Cahoon, Mrs. W. R. White, and the county superintendent, Mrs. W. C. Brewer.

A sum of \$2,000 has been received here from the state unemployment bureau to be used in assisting the unemployed by giving work instead of charity. It is understood that the outside aid depends entirely upon the amount raised in the county, as the state will not aid any county that is not using every effort to care for its own dependents.

School lunches are being served in the county courthouse Monday, Wednesdays, and Fridays of each week, with an attendance of 40 children at each lunch. Lunches are also being served in the high school at Creswell and in Roper.

A force of men are working at Plymouth and Roper, beautifying the premises at the schools. This work is being supervised by the principals and parent-teacher associations. A crew of workers is also busy at the county home.

O. Henry Drug Store To Be Open Every Sunday

Mr. O. H. Lyon this week announced that, effective immediately, the O. Henry Drug Store would be kept open every Sunday. Last July the three drug-stores here entered into an agreement for each store to remain open every third Sunday. This agreement is no longer operative, and Mr. Lyon decided to keep his store open every Sunday. Prior to entering the arrangement in July, the O. Henry Drug Store for 10 years has made it a policy not to open at all on Sunday, but Mr. Lyon stated that from now on "business as usual" will be his slogan seven days a week.

Creswell Auxiliary

Creswell.—The Woman's Auxiliary of the Creswell M. P. church held its business meeting Tuesday afternoon with Miss Blanche Davis.

The devotional period was conducted by the president, Mrs. D. D. Hatfield. A motion was made and carried that a bazaar would be given Friday night, December 2, at Wiley's store.

Organize Club

Creswell.—The senior class 4-H club of Creswell school was organized October 20. Home management was selected by the club as the main object for the year, while on the side line we will take up sewing. Many club songs and the club pledge has been taught to the club by the instructor, Miss Eugenia Patterson.

The officers elected are: President, Nellie Hathaway; vice president, Sarah Jane Liverman; secretary, Dorothy Woodley, and treasurer, Rachel Stillman.

Left in his birthday suit after highwaymen had stolen his car and his clothes, J. L. Tucker donned the skirt he made of rhubarb leaves and walked to the Evanston (Ill.) police station to report the theft.

COUNTY, STATE AND NATIONAL DEMOCRATS WIN

Roosevelt Carries County By Vote of 1,683 To 619 for Hoover

An avalanche of votes swept the entire Democratic party into power by a 2 to 1 vote in Washington County, which ran close in the ballot battle four years ago, with Franklin D. Roosevelt carrying 1,683 to 619 for Hoover against an almost even vote in the 1928 election.

John C. B. Ehringhaus came second on the ticket to Roosevelt, with a total of 1,662 against Frazier's 672 for governor; while Lindsay Warren trailed with 1,636 for Congress against 688 for Respass. The entire Democratic county ticket was likewise thrust into office with each candidate maintaining a more than 2 to 1 lead.

Never before in the history of this county has the Republican stronghold of Skimmersville Township presented a Democratic majority, but this time it did by almost 20 votes on an average. Usually Plymouth Township has to poll enough majority to keep the Democrats above water in the county to make up for this loss, but this time it was not necessary.

Here are the returns for the national ticket as voted in Washington County: Roosevelt, 1,683; Hoover, 619; Thomas, 6. For Governor: Ehringhaus, 1,662; Frazier, 672; lieutenant governor: Graham, 1,635; Tillet, 675; secretary of state: Wade, 1,632; Brady 677; auditor: Durham, 1,627; Jennings, 680; treasurer, Stedman, 1,627; and Gwynn, 675.

Superintendent of public instruction: Allen, 1,633; Butler, 674; attorney general: Brumitt, 1,636; Williams, 671; commissioner of agriculture: Graham, 1,593; Phelps, 721; for commissioner of labor: Fletcher, 1,630; Ferree, 676; corporation commissioner, Winborne, 1,626; McClure, 776; insurance commissioner; Boney 1,626; Grogan, 673; United States Senator, short term: Reynolds 1,626; Newell, 700; United States Senator, long term: Reynolds, 1,612; Newell, 700; for Congress: Warren, 1,636; Respass 688.

Several Names on Tax List Through Error

In publishing the first of the 1931 delinquent tax list, several errors were discovered, but not in time to make the corrections. The tax accounts of the following firms and individuals have been settled, and correction is gladly noted: Southern Hardware Co., J. C. Spruill, Mrs. Jennie Spruill, O. H. Lyon, H. H. Liverman, O. H. Lyon, guardian; Mrs. O. H. Lyon, C. L. Weeks, W. B. Tetterton, Thompson-Clagson.

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After the business session, the hostess served refreshments. The next meeting will be held with Mrs. C. N. Davenport, sr.