

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

THE ROANOKE BEACON

AND WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS

Advertisers will find Beacon and News columns a latch-key to 1,100 Washington County homes.

VOLUME XLIII—NUMBER 53

Plymouth, Washington County, North Carolina, Friday, December 30, 1932

ESTABLISHED 1889

LOCAL COLORED SCHOOL HAS ONE EXTRA TEACHER

Action May Result In Another Legal Dispute Between Boards

What may result in another legal controversy will be the employment of the new negro teacher by the Plymouth School Board Trustees for work in the Washington County Training School, as it appears that there are no appropriations for this teacher.

When the local district officials assumed charge of the negro school here in the administration department about two weeks ago they discharged a teacher named Barnette and employed in his stead Doris Bell, daughter of Attorney P. H. Bell, to take his place.

Later they reemployed Barnette and retained Doris Bell as well after making a shift in the faculty. They took Barnette from the science department in the high school and put him in the fifth grade and assigned the new teacher to this position.

The officials that at first dropped Barnette found that there were about 120 or more pupils in one of the lower grades, and thus they felt that the State Board of Equalization would appropriate for this teacher as the usual schedule for a teacher is about 60, so they took Barnette again.

The town board officials aver that James W. Norman, county superintendent of public instruction, and E. H. Hicks, superintendent of city schools, were appointed to recommend the teachers for the present term some time ago. They agreed upon all except Barnette at that time. Later it was decided to employ Barnette, and he was put on the list to teachers allegedly without the consent of Mr. Hicks. Thus in the meantime the city board had entered into a contract with Doris Bell. As the county board was in charge then, Barnette secured the job. When the city board was granted the right lately to the control of the schools, then the town officials feared that unless they lived up to their contract with the Bell girl they would be sued for breach of contract, and they claimed they had no contract with Barnette.

The result of the matter was that the town officials felt that they could dispense with the services of Barnette if they desired, as he was given no contract by them, and they were afraid not to employ the Bell girl. After finding enough children to permit it, then Barnette was retained again.

SEVERAL FIRMS LEAVING TOWN

Elizabeth City Man Might Open Motor Company at Buchanan Stand

A few businesses have lost faith in Plymouth. Or so it appears.

The Sanitary Barber Shop, which has been operating here for a number of years, more recently under the management of Mr. Bergeron, with C. C. Craft as an employee, closed last Saturday and today all the fixtures have been moved out, leaving the place vacant.

It is also understood that the Gladys Coffee Shop that was operated by Mrs. Gladys Hendrix next to the Beacon office, is closed, as no one has been selling anything in there this week.

The Buchanan Motor Company has been closed down for a couple or more weeks and S. A. Ward, the last manager, is no longer interested in the concern. It is understood that W. G. Gaither, of Elizabeth City, is interested in the firm, but he has done nothing toward reopening the place as far as is known.

Leon Sugar and the Young Mercantile Company have advertised they were removing their stores from Plymouth, but they were both open and doing business Wednesday afternoon. It is not definitely known what the Plymouth Hardware Company will do either.

Christmas Celebration at Lodge Last Monday Night

More than 200 people attended the Chapel Hill community Sunday school Christmas celebration Monday night at the Charitable Brotherhood Lodge, when a good program was rendered. Supt. W. C. Brewer read the scriptural narrative of the Christmas story.

A special song was sung by a group of 20 girls and boys to support the congregational singing. Miss Helen Bowen made a short recitation. Santa Claus distributed the gifts from a beautiful Christmas tree to 50 members of the primary and junior classes, with each receiving an individual gift.

Before leaving each guest was presented fruit. A feature of the exercises was that all gifts and fruits were paid for from the Sunday school funds.

Hunting Party Bags Three Deer Near Here Thursday

Three buck deer were bagged by a hunting party near here last Thursday. The huntsmen included Murray Satterfield, of New York, who is connected with the Knox Hat Company, and Mrs. Jones, of Los Angeles, Calif. and Asheville, as the guests of Ben A. Sumner. The visitors reported a good time and expressed appreciation of finding game so plentiful.

JOHN DARDEN TO SHIP TOMATOES AGAIN THIS YEAR

To Operate Independently of the Crockett Packing Company

Inauguration of a new and better method of handling the tomato crop in Washington County for the approaching spring has been announced by Joh W. Darden, who is operating independently this year and is in no way connected with the Crockett Packing Company.

In the new method Mr. Darden will pack and ship the tomatoes with the identity of the grower retained on the lot, and the check will be mailed to the grower from the purchaser with the deduction of the sales agent's commission by the purchaser at the other end, and thus each man will get his money without room to complain.

This is not meant in any way to interfere with the organizations at Roper and Plymouth, says Mr. Darden, but it is to be operated for the planters who wish to sell their tomatoes direct and receive an itemized account of their total sales and the amount of the deduction for commission so that there will be no unpleasant result.

Mr. Darden is of the opinion that he can handle 300 up to 500 acres through this method, and can render satisfaction as he has been in the business now for four seasons and knows the ills and troubles caused by the old sales method and will use the new method of the check coming back to the grower.

Seed for those shipping through Mr. Darden will be furnished at cost. Included in the service that he will render the growers is that of the general labor, grading, packing, labeling, wrapping paper, loading sticks, boxes, nails, and nailing, and his commission in payment for this will be deducted by purchaser and the remainder sent to the grower direct.

Mr. Darden states that he is cooperating with about 30 or more commission houses in the north and middle western markets, and that each day he gets quotations of the prices, and he believed that he can render the people service that surpasses any heretofore.

BETTER COWS FOR THE STATE

Tests Show State Within Close Range of National Production Average

An analysis of records kept on 1,651 cows in the North Carolina herd improvement associations last year indicate that these animals produced an average of 6,927 pounds of milk containing 303 pounds of butterfat. The average feed cost per cow was \$91.

"This report was made by the United States Department of Agriculture which has been studying our testing work," says John A. Arey, dairy extension specialist at State College. "The figures supplied by the national department show that we have made a steady gain in milk and fat production and that the members of our cow-testing associations are gradually replacing their herds on a more efficient production basis. The increase in fat production during the past three years from 267 pounds to 303 pounds is a record to be proud of. We are now within three pounds of the national average."

Mr. Arey says persistent culling is partly responsible for this rapid increase in production. During the past three years from ten to twelve percent of the cows on test were culled each year because they were unprofitable. When the herd records show that a cow is not paying her owner, he does not hesitate to send her to the butcher. However, many unprofitable cows are retained in herds if no production records are kept.

If all the fluid milk producers in North Carolina would keep herd records and send to the butcher all mature cows which produced less than 6,000 pounds of milk a year, the present surplus of milk in the State would quickly disappear and the net returns from the remaining cows would be materially increased. The production of the unprofitable cows will probably equal the surplus which now exists in the fluid markets, Arey believes.

PIGS AND COWS CONTINUING TO GROW IN FAVOR

Cardwell Says Farm Needs Feed Before It Needs Live Stock

By GUY A. CARDWELL

Sensing an increase in popularity, Benjamin Franklin is said to have referred to his growing importance in the esteem of his neighbors in these words:

"Now that I have a pig and a cow, every one bids me good morrow."

It was true in Franklin's time, and it is likewise true today that the owners of livestock are more important individuals in the estimation of their neighbors than are those farmers who are not possessed of livestock.

While every farm needs livestock, it should be borne in mind that a farm needs feed before it needs livestock. Do not let any one influence you to the contrary, for if you do you will certainly have the cart before the horse.

The late Thomas W. Bickett, like Franklin, was possessed of imagination and vision. Being troubled about the condition of North Carolina farmers on a certain occasion during his administration as governor, he expressed his belief in live-at-home farming in the following forcible manner:

"If I were Czar of North Carolina instead of the Governor, I would issue an edict declaring that from and after five years from date any man who imported into North Carolina any corn or meal, wheat or flour, beef or bacon, should be forthwith hanged and without benefit of clergy. Of course, in the beginning I should be denounced as an infamous tyrant, but after the law had been in effect for ten years the richest state in the union would build a monument to me as the financial redeemer of my people."

More than a decade has passed since Governor Bickett termed our failure to live at home a high crime. Unfortunately, he was not a Czar but only a Governor, hence he was unable to bring about the improvement in farming conditions that his brilliant mind and keen vision caused him to advocate.

Our present distinguished governor, the Hon. O. Max Gardner, has done much to encourage not only North Carolina farmers but also those of neighboring states to declare their independence of the smokehouses, granaries, creameries, and hay fields of the North and West. But thousands of farmers still remain to be converted to a live-at-home program, and shown how they can change from an unprofitable to a prosperous method of farming.

I have often said that the proper placement of livestock on southern farms would result in lessening the cost of production of the usual crops by giving larger yields on smaller acreages, and, in addition, would provide milk, cream, calves, hogs, lambs, wool, poultry, eggs, and occasionally a milk cow or beef animal for sale.

I have also stated that increased income, better distributed, is one of the greatest needs of our farmers—not altogether for their benefit, but for the good of business generally.

Some may wish to know by what authority I write and speak on such subjects. If this should occur, I wish to say that the Atlantic Coast Line has for many years given close attention to the development of business in its territory. It has sought over a long period to have wisely brought into production unproductive lands—it has suggested and helped with new crops. In these and in other ways it has endeavored to increase the income of the rural population.

In the early eighties naval stores furnished a considerable part of the wealth of this section. With the passing of this industry, the people were left impoverished and the railroad without ample tonnage.

The men of vision then in charge of the destinies of the Atlantic Coast Line system decided that this section was adapted to the growing of strawberries and a variety of vegetables. In the late eighties and early nineties, specialists were employed by the railroad to promote the growing of truck crops and to show farmers how to grow and market these crops. The Atlantic Coast Line also substantially aided in establishing bright leaf tobacco growing in Eastern North and South Carolina.

In more recent years it has been realized that the farmer who depends solely upon the old money crops is a goner, and that his business can only be established on a firm foundation by adding food and feed crops to his plan of work, and further by carrying on the place a reasonable number of live stock. While this system has the effect of keeping all hands busy for 12 months in the year it also spreads income over the entire year and makes cotton, tobacco, and peanuts actually what they should be—cash or money crops.

SEEK TO HAVE PEANUTS ADDED TO RELIEF PLAN

Domestic Allotment Plan Would Greatly Aid the Growers It is Thought

The Beacon is in receipt of a communication from Congressman John H. Kerr and Lindsay C. Warren in which the solons voice their intention to make some effort to aid in the peanut industry. Their statement regarding the peanut situation follows:

"We have been greatly interested in the possibility of some form of Federal legislation for the benefit of the peanut growers. The market price for this commodity has for three years been much below the cost of production, and it is about the only agricultural commodity which now has no price.

The Department of Agriculture has instructed its field agents to encourage the peanut farmers to store their 1932 crop and hold for a better market and has advised them that curtailment of future crops is imperative. This is the only remedy that the Department of Agriculture has suggested.

The Domestic Allotment Plan now pending in Congress undertakes to increase the price of four basic agricultural products, viz: Cotton, wheat, tobacco and hog products. This bill proposes to pay the producers of these commodities an increase above the market price—47 cents per bushel for wheat, 5 cents per pound for cotton, 2 cents per pound for tobacco, and 2 cents per pound for hog products. This is predicated upon a contract with the farmer that he will cut his production and thus let the surplus of these commodities be naturally absorbed. This increased price is paid by a tax collected from the processor of each commodity, and of course the processor passes it on to the final consumer. Only those who contract to reduce their crops will receive the benefit of this tax. The advocates of this measure insist that all agricultural commodities will rise to a profit level if this bill can become law. We are following same closely, but will wait to see its final form before we take a definite position on same.

We have endeavored to get peanuts inserted into the Domestic Allotment Plan. It is contended by those who oppose this that should it be done then the bill will be open for every other commodity and that it would defeat the purpose of the act. It is extremely doubtful if peanuts or any other commodity except those named will be included, but we will make a fight for same when the measure comes up for consideration.

"Those peanuts upon which the government has a lien for money advanced to produce same, the Department of Agriculture is willing to negotiate with the owners in respect to a sale or storage thereof. We have, together with Congressman Drewry and Lankford, taken up the matter of relief for these growers to the end that they may adjust the matter of their debt and then be at liberty to dispose of or handle the unincumbered part of their crop. The department has agreed that the grower may have the option of storing and holding these indefinitely, the costs of storage being released, or the grower may negotiate loans at the Regional Agricultural Credit Corporation for seventy-five per cent of their market value, to be used by the grower under the distress policy of the department or in the liquidation of all or some part of the debt to the government, this to be determined in each individual case by the field agent.

"We have been informed by Mr. Don C. McVay, chief of the crop producing loan office, that he will recommend to the Department of Agriculture, and that he thinks it will be approved, that each peanut grower who is indebted to the government be allowed to collateralize his debt with peanuts at the price of 1.26 cents per pound, the same ratio price allowed cotton growers, and allow the remainder of crop to be released and used by the grower.

"This is the situation in respect to the peanut growers. We make this statement in order that large sections of our districts may fully understand that we have been greatly interested in their problems, and are ready to aid and cooperate in any proper way that we can."

Several Hundred People Are Given Aid During Christmas

The Christmas season in Plymouth and Washington County was a success to a certain degree. Over 100 families were cared for with baskets of fruits, foods, and clothing. A total of 406 men were given pay checks, the aggregate amounting to about \$1,200, which was a great help to the men as well as the merchants of the county. Twenty-six nice hens were donated by friends of the welfare workers. These were dressed and put in baskets with apples, oranges and candy, oatmeal, raisins, sugar, meat, Irish potatoes, coffee and baking powder. Sixty baskets were distributed in and around Plymouth and because preparations were made for only 50 baskets, some were short on the above-mentioned articles.

The carol singing, which was to have been held on Christmas Day was called off because of the absence of Mrs. W. C. Brewer, who was in Sebring, Fla., because of the death of her father, Adjutant George B. Austin.

Mr. Brewer wishes to thank every one in Plymouth, Roper, Creswell, and Cherry for their splendid cooperation in making Christmas a joyous day for many little children in the county who otherwise would have had nothing and the need was so great that many little ones had to go on bravely hoping that Santa Claus would not forget them next year.

HOLIDAYS PASS QUIETLY; ONLY FEW ARRESTED

Recorder's Court Will Hear Cases Growing Out of Several Escapades

A survey of the usual Christmas incidents that occurred in Washington County during last week-end reveal that the quiet old town came to life again with the victims now sad because of their escapades.

Freeman Martin, well-known young white man of Plymouth, was jailed to await court on a charge of driving an automobile while drunk during the holidays. The arrest did not follow as the result of an accident or tragedy that followed his driving, but he was apprehended in this alleged condition.

Staniel Liverman and Tom Blount will be tried when the appropriate time arrives for engaging in an affray on Water Street. No serious injury was inflicted upon either of the combatants. Local officers made the arrest shortly after the altercation.

An automobile being driven allegedly by Linwood Hassell, who was accompanied by F. M. Hodges, hit a post on Water Street, damaging the car pretty badly, but doing little or no injury to the occupants of the vehicle.

Cheek Bowser, negro, was tried in a magistrate's court Tuesday and fined \$5.50 on a charge of being drunk and disorderly and using profane language on the streets of Plymouth Saturday.

An altercation of short duration also occurred when a group of negroes was said to have attacked Herman Alexander and Robert Smith on Water Street Saturday night. A few sharp words between Alexander and one of the negroes is said to have drawn Smith into the matter. This will likely come up in recorder's court.

FRUIT IS NEEDED IN FOOD SUPPLY

Not Necessary to Have Large Orchard, But Few Trees Desirable

It is not necessary to have an elaborate orchard to secure an adequate supply of fruit for the farm home. A few trees of desirable varieties may be planted about the yard and out-buildings and in addition to serving as shade and ornaments, will give a food source now lacking in many homes.

H. R. Niswonger, extension horticulturist at State College, says it is just as essential in supplying a well-rounded diet for the farm family to have a few fruit trees and vines as it is to have a supply of vegetables from the home garden. So often when an acre of land is planted to the orchard, the trees are neglected. The present neglected home orchards in this state are examples of this.

Therefore a good plan is to plant a small number of the different kinds of trees and set them in such a way as to fit in with the planting scheme for beautifying the farm homestead. Niswonger says pear and cherry trees may be set in the rear or at the side of the farm dwelling and will serve as shade trees in addition to bearing fruit as they mature. The beautiful blossoms will add to the beauty of the place. Apple, peach, and plum trees may be set near the other farm buildings or along the side and rear line of the garden fence. Here they provide an attractive setting for these usually unsightly buildings.

Grape vines may be planted along the front line of the garden fence and strawberries and other small fruits may have a place in the garden.

Mr. Niswonger therefore recommends trying these plantings: Six apple and peach trees; three plum trees; three cherry trees; 10 grape vines; 100 strawberry plants and 25 raspberry plants. Other fruits, such as figs and Japanese persimmons,

Three Marriage Licenses Issued During Holidays

Marriage licenses were issued to the following couples by Mrs. Mary O. Sawyer, register of deeds, during the Christmas holidays: December 24: Paul Basnight, of Plymouth, to Miss Beatrice Anne Jamesville; December 23: Henry Vance Harrison, Plymouth, to Miss Ercula Ange, Plymouth; December 24, William Jasper Skiles, of Woodard, to Miss Johnnie Sprull, of Plymouth.

Concise Report Made by County Agent Dunning

Here is a concise report of his work for a short period made by R. E. Dunning, Washington County Farm Agent, that was published recently:

"Made annual report to commissioners, also presented plan of work for another year. Met with charter members of the Plymouth Mutual Exchange to consider growers' agreement for another year. Distributed poisoned rat bait to 23 farmers enlisting in battle against pests. Assisted Glenn Davidson in asking soybean survey of the county for the purpose of establishing crushing plant, furnishing a market for soybeans."

LOCAL MOVIE TO CLOSE SATURDAY

Is Rumored That Outside Interests Might Operate the Local Theatre

It appears now that the New Theatre in Plymouth will close down again at the conclusion of this week's program.

H. A. Williford has already signified to A. L. Owens, owner of the building, who is in control of the fixtures, that he is ready to get out of the business. In fact he has been out about a week or more.

C. Gordon, who has been managing the show for Mr. Williford, is of the opinion that the show will not reopen for business again after closing Saturday night about 11 o'clock. Lack of sufficient business to justify the expenses has been assigned as the reason.

It is not sure that Mr. Highsmith, who operates a theatre in Robersonville will be interested, as it has once been suggested here. Nothing but street talk has been heard of the desire of the management of the Watts Theatre in Williamston assuming control of the theatre here.

Those who have been operating the theatre here claim that no one can operate without losing money unless they can have a revenue of about \$150 a week, thus averaging \$25 a night, and one week only has the revenue exceeded this amount and that week it was \$185.

But since this good week the show has been operating with an income as low as \$85 a week. This in no way paid expenses and there has not been enough increase in business in any week since the low week to even up.

Figuring the building at a rental of \$15 weekly; pictures at about \$80 or more weekly for four changes; rental on the sound equipment at \$15 a week; and incidental expenses at \$15 a week, this would make it high, not including the current for the lights and machines.

Some have advanced the idea that the show operate on Friday and Saturday nights of each week. It is not known whether this would be feasible or not. So anything can be expected unless outside interests are persuaded to take over the operation of the business.

Dr. Dan B. Mizelle Injured in Wreck Near Williamston

Dr. Dan B. Mizelle, of Charlotte, is suffering from a broken leg and other injuries sustained in an automobile wreck near Williamston Tuesday night when a car in which he was riding crashed into a truck parked along the road. The automobile was badly damaged.

Other occupants in the car also suffered injuries. No one was in the truck. It was reported here that the accident was attributed to the fact that the prominent Charlotte dentist did not see the parked truck that was alleged to have been without lights, as a fog had settled over the road.

Avery County growers sold their first truck load of onions for this season last week.

TWO-WEEK TERM SUPERIOR COURT BEGINS HERE 9TH

Judge Daniels Will Hear Both Criminal and Civil Cases During Period

A score or more civil cases will be called along with the pressing criminal actions in Washington County Superior Court that will convene here January 9 for two weeks, it was learned today from C. V. W. Aushon, clerk of the court.

Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday will be allowed to the use of the trial of criminal cases, with Judge F. A. Daniels, of Goldsboro, presiding for the first week and with Judge R. Hunt Parker serving for the second week unless there is some kind of a change.

The first three days of the first week will be used as explained above for criminal cases to be followed on Thursday with the cases involving Mae Simmons, administratrix, vs. Emma Brantley, administratrix; W. T. Freeman vs. General Motors Acceptance Corporation. These two cases are expected to consume the rest of the week.

Here is the calendar of cases on the civil docket for the second week, divorce and motion cases to be called at the pleasure of the court:

Monday, January 16: Mrs. F. M. Simpson et al. vs. J. S. Davenport; J. J. Johnson vs. W. B. Copperrsmith et al.; Midvale Realty Co. vs. L. Whitehurst et al.

Tuesday, January 17: Eastern Cotton Oil Co. vs. R. W. Johnson; Eastern Cotton Oil Co. vs. Stanley McCollough; Simmons Hardware Co. vs. M. W. Gurkin et al.; A. Davenport vs. Chicago Mill & Lumber Co.; A. B. Davenport vs. J. T. McAllister.

Wednesday, January 18: Eastern Cotton Oil Co. vs. H. C. Boyd et al.; Eastern Cotton Oil Co. vs. W. M. Allen et al.; Dr. C. McGowan vs. A. C. L. R. Co.; J. S. Shugar vs. Smith and Dauglas; S. A. Holton vs. Howard Leary.

Mrs. N. J. Rhodes vs. William Davenport et al.; Mrs. N. J. Rhodes vs. Carrie Spruill; Mrs. N. J. Rhodes vs. Weston Spruill (two cases); J. C. Tarkenton vs. G. W. Ainsley et al.; Ira J. Alligood vs. J. E. Winslow Co.

Friday, January 20: W. T. Phelps vs. Bank of Creswell et al.

AGAIN ASK USE OLD BUILDING

Chapel Hill Citizens Are of the Opinion Old School House Is Their Own

The Beacon is in receipt of a letter from a leader in the Chapel Hill school community that sets forth the attitude of the people relative to the use of the school building for any purpose other than for which it was designed. The name of the writer is known to the editor but deleted here upon request.

"Editor: We, the people of the Chapel Hill School District, want to call attention of the Washington County Board of Education that we built the Chapel Hill School Building by our own taxes. Not one penny came from the county. We paid a 45 cents extra tax to take care of this building. The county only placed the benches in it.

"The young folks and teachers at different times gave parties and plays to make money for the purchase of a piano, teacher's desk and chairs. Now, where are these chairs and the piano? When the school was moved to town we had a surplus of \$1,500 that was used by the board. Did another school have this?

"If the county has never had any rent for the year that the building has been used as a dwelling, why was the building turned into a dwelling? The people here never wanted a family in it. Before the primary grades were moved to town we paid for our high school pupils to go to school in Plymouth, and we are still paying taxes.

"We think we are entitled to this building as we built it, and we do not have any public building in this community for our clubs or any other meeting that we may desire to have in a public building. Please consider and give us a fair deal."

Durham Farmers Curing Potatoes in Tobacco Barns

Five tobacco curing barns were converted into sweet potato storage houses in Durham County at a cost of \$15 to \$20 each and are filled with the new crop of potatoes.

Return of \$1.55 a Bird Is Secured in Caldwell County

Poultry in nine demonstration flocks on which recorders were kept in Caldwell County this season paid a net return above feed cost of \$1.55 a bird.