

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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Plymouth, Washington County, North Carolina, Friday, May 18, 1934

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UNEMPLOYED TO REGISTER AGAIN IN THIS COUNTY

Present Registration Will Expire The First Of Next Month

Mr. Luther R. Ausbon, district manager for the National Re-employment Service in the counties of Washington, Martin, Bertie and Tyrrell, with headquarters in Plymouth, states that it is again necessary for all the unemployed in this district to re-register or renew their old registrations. Many who have registered have neither found regular employment or have moved away from their respective counties, and in order to keep his records straight and to know at all times who are available for employment, this office will, on the first of June, place all cards in the inactive file which has not been renewed.

As many of these applicants are quite a distance from his office, those wishing to do so may renew their registration by notifying his office by letter. But, if possible, a personal call is preferred.

Mr. Ausbon also states that, to keep your card in the active files, it will be necessary to renew your registration each 90 days, for when a card becomes 90 days old without renewal, it will automatically be placed in the inactive files, and of course will not receive consideration when calls come in for men.

This also applies to the women in these counties who have registered for employment.

ANNOUNCE NAME OF TIRE DEALER

R. S. Browning Now Agent Silvertowns In This Community

The growing national demand for Silvertown tires with the Life-Saver Golden Ply is indicated by recent preliminary sales figures for 1933 released by the B. F. Goodrich Company, according to R. S. Browning, recently appointed dealer for Plymouth and vicinity.

"Unit sales of Silvertowns last year showed more than a ten percent increase and this excellent showing is generally attributed to the product," Mr. Browning declared.

"Almost everyone who drives a car realizes the potential hazards of blowouts. Statistics prepared by various agencies indicate clearly that thousands of accidents, many of which result in death or serious injury, are caused annually by tire failures.

"Golden Ply tires are engineered to resist heat inside the casings which if sustained will cause ply separation, a major cause of blow-outs.

"The engineering advances made by all automotive manufacturers enabling them to build cars which will easily travel in excess of 70 miles an hour brought new problems for the tire producers.

"After two years of intensive study and thousands of tests, many of which were conducted on the fastest automobile track in America, Goodrich announced its new tire created to meet modern driving conditions.

"At the outset many car owners thought here was simply another tire but the convincing results of hundreds of thousands of driving miles in all parts of the United States has brought the increasing popular demand."

Pleasant Grove Missionary Group Organized Recently

Pleasant Grove. — The Pleasant Grove Missionary Society was organized at the home of Mrs. J. C. Tarkenton Wednesday night with Mrs. Tarkenton opening the meeting with scripture reading. Mrs. Jack McAllister, of Roper, was present and made many helpful suggestions.

Officers elected follow: Mrs. J. C. Tarkenton, president; Mrs. W. W. White, vice president; Miss Myrtle Tarkenton, secretary; Mrs. W. B. Chesson, director of publicity; Rev. R. E. Atkinson, superintendent of mission study; Mrs. J. W. Tarkenton, superintendent of Christian social relation; Mrs. H. G. Spruill, chairman of local aid work, and Mrs. C. W. Snell, treasurer.

Early Payment of Cotton Benefits Now Expected

The adjustment of cotton contracts should be completed soon. Early payments of cotton benefits are expected.

Producers Can Make Profit by Hog Reduction

Producers can make more on hogs they do not grow than on hogs they do if they sign the corn-hog reduction contracts.

Pleasant Grove Service League Holds Meeting

Pleasant Grove.—The Young People's Service League met at the church Friday night when 16 members and two visitors were present. Miss Christine Hodges presided. The next meeting will be held Friday night, May 18, at the church.

It was decided that socials would be held one week and business meetings the next. All the young people are urged to attend.

TICKET HAS NO MINOR OFFICES

No Candidates For Offices of Justice of Peace or Constable in County

No names were filed by either the Republicans or Democrats with W. L. Whitley, chairman of the Washington County Board of Elections, as candidates for constables and justices of the peace, for the 1934 campaign, it was learned definitely today.

The party members came to an agreement that in consideration of the trouble and expense they would not run three minor offices in the campaign, but that the clerk of court here and the legislature would appoint these officers.

There were about 15 justices and about the same number of constables elected in 1932 and only six or eight of these candidates who were elected ever qualified for the duties of the offices. So by mutual consent the minor office candidates will not be on a ticket this year.

County Citizens Invited To Attend State Meeting

A group of 15 residents of Washington County will be invited to attend a meeting that will be held in Charlotte to discuss a plan for advertising the Carolinas, it was learned today from A. M. Huggins, of Fayetteville.

These citizens will be chosen from among those who are interested in the development of growth of the Carolinas. The nature of the advertising and the extent of the program was not divulged by Mr. Huggins who refrained from naming the men at the present.

Mr. Huggins is zone manager of the Carolina Motor Club with headquarters in Greensboro.

PLAN INCREASE IN BEAN ACRES IN THIS COUNTY

Representative from Plant In Norfolk Urges More Acres for Soy Beans

Soybean acreage in Washington County is expected to be increased this year as prices of this commodity at the present are \$1.25 a bushel, a price that is considered fair and if it should advance to \$1.50 this would be enough for the grower to make a good profit.

In 1932 there were 4,195 acres grown alone probably for commercial purposes and in 1933 there were 4,317 acres and this year there will be an increase up close to 4,600 acres. This means that these acreages were not planted with other crops.

In 1932 there were 2,570 acres and in 1933, 1,516 acres grown with corn. This was for fertilization purposes as the vine, stalk and bean are said to have much fertile value to the soil. It is noticeable that there is a difference in the amount grown with corn in the two years, showing a decrease in this practice may be for selling purposes.

Then during these same years, there were 1,580 acres planted in 1932 and 1,788 acres for soybean hay. Of course, the statistics give this as a separate item and it is not known definitely what is included or what the total crop is of this produce.

Prices of this commodity have ranged for the last few years as follows: January, 1931, \$1.53 bushel; October, tober, 1931, 92 cents; January, 1932, 69 cents; October, 1932, 49 cents; January, 1933, 48 cents; May, 1933, 70 cents; January, 1934, \$1.05; May, 1934, \$1.25 a bushel.

T. A. Wilson, field representative of I. F. Laucks, Inc., a firm with a plant at Fort Norfolk, Norfolk, Va., told the farmers in this section of this "war time price" on this commodity and the acreage will possibly be increased for the 1934 season to such an extent as to provide plenty for the market.

Mr. Wilson's company unloaded a cargo of soybean meal from Manchuria this week and they are appealing to the farmers to grow this crop in this section so as to provide a supply for the plant in the nearby city.

FARM NOTES

By W. V. HAYS, County Agent

Tobacco growers will have acreage allotments increased 10 percent. This can be done at the expense of decreased parity payments. Letters of explanation have been sent to all growers.

Sheep shearing time is here. If the wool is left on much later the sheep begin to shed. This not only causes a loss of wool but hurts the price. We have planned a wool sale at Creswell for the latter part of June. By pooling our wool we can get bids and much better prices than by selling to hucksters. Fold the clipped fleece in side out and tie with a cotton string. Tie only one fleece to the bundle. Hold your wool until notified of the sale date.

Tobacco government rental acres may be used by the producer or his tenants only. These acres may be planted to soil improving crops or half of these acres may be planted to food and feed crops. Provided they are needed on this farm and provided none of these crops are raised on this farm for sale. Corn may also be planted on rented acres provided not more acres are planted to this crop than was planted in the year 1933 or 1932 which ever year was the higher.

Cotton farmers who were not able to sign a reduction contract but have grown cotton for two or three years during the past six years will be able to sign a non-participating agreement or will be able to grow about half the number of acres grown on an average, those years. Notices will be sent out when these forms arrive.

Agent Hays Attends Farm District Meeting at Manteo

W. V. Hays, of Plymouth, farm demonstration agent for Washington County, attended the meeting of the northeastern district of farm agents' convention that was held in Manteo last week.

Morning and night sessions were held. Speakers included M. G. Mann, secretary of the North Carolina Cotton Growers' Association; A. C. Wimery, dairy division expert of State College; L. R. Harill, 4-H club leader of State College and others.

The agents enjoyed fishing during recreation periods.

FUNERAL HELD FOR W. M. WILEY LAST TUESDAY

Prominent Creswell Citizen Dies There Following Long Illness

Creswell.—Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon at the Methodist Protestant Church for William M. Wiley, 80 years of age, well-known citizen of this section. Rev. P. E. Bingham officiated, assisted by W. H. Holloway. Mrs. J. W. Starr sang a solo as the procession entered the church.

Death came on Mr. Wiley as he was singing and exclaiming he was ready to die. Last February he fell and dislocated his hip that caused his confinement for three months. He never uttered a word of complaint during that time, patiently awaiting the end. He has been a member of the M. P. church here since it was organized years ago and was superintendent of the Sunday school at the time of his death.

The usher at the final rites in the church was Joe Baker Davenport. Active pall bearers were: Seaton Swain, R. L. Swain, Charles Swain, Stark Holden, O. D. Hatfield and George Stillman. Honorary pallbearers: Dr. J. L. Phelps, D. E. Woodley, Ed Swain, T. F. Davenport, H. G. Walker, J. W. Starr, W. D. Peal, R. H. Bachman, Hubert Stillman, C. N. Davenport, Sr., John Combs, W. T. Alexander, S. C. Smithson and Roy Hopkins.

A beautiful floral offering was contributed by the many friends and relatives who were present to pay a last tribute to his memory.

Cool Spring Club Meets

Mrs. J. B. Carlisle was a very gracious hostess to the Cool Spring Club recently with ten old and one new member, Mrs. J. B. Jordan, present.

The canning leader made a report of 345 quarts of meat, 28 quarts of pickles were canned. The sewing leader reported ten adults' garments, 20 for children, two dresses remodeled. Miss Patterson and Mrs. Hayes fitted patterns to the different type of women.

The agent read an interesting clipping on eight things farmers might have to make their daily living as kings.

The meeting this month will be held with Mrs. S. B. Lucas.

Legal To Fish Three Days Each Week in This County

Washington County is among the group in North Carolina in which fishing is permitted during the closed season period, May 1 to June 10, only on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays, it was announced this week.

The closed season does not apply to salt water fishing or to fishing for trout, small mouth bass, and muskallunge, which are classed as mountain fish. Seasons on the latter cover different dates.

FIRESTONE HAS HIGH SPEED TIRE

The 1934 Firestone Is Last Word In Auto Tire Construction

According to A. J. Cahoon, Columbia Firestone dealer, the new Firestone High Speed Tire for 1934 is the last word in tire construction—it is the greatest tire Firestone ever built.

"In no product today is there wider performance difference than in the various makes of tires at high speeds," the dealer said. "No other product is more vital for safety of motorists. The 500-Mile Race of past years at the Indianapolis Speedway was recognized as a race of tires. To keep the tread on the body of the tire was the greatest problem due to the terrific speeds. Gum-Dipping was the answer of Firestone engineers.

"In the recent series of stock car and road races in California, Firestone Tires have always been on the winning cars. They are the same kind of tires the motorist purchases from his local dealer. All the great racing drivers are familiar with occasions when a driver using another make of tires had to slow up or stop at the pits for a tire change on account of tread separation. The thicker tread the more heat it holds in the tire—unless the body construction guards against internal friction heat.

"Gum-Dipping the high stretch cords gives the adhesion which welds the tire into one strong unit. This made it possible for Firestone to develop the first successful balloon tire in 1923, and has made possible other developments which have brought leadership based on performance.

With the amazing advancement of tire safety and mileage, Firestone has always sought efficient production so that the motorist would pay no premium."

MARKETING OF TOMATOES TO BE LATE THIS YEAR

Believed First of Crop Will Not Be Harvested Before Early Part July

Harvesting of tomatoes will be much later this season than in any year since tomatoes were raised and offered as a commercial crop in this section, according to the opinion of W. T. Stillman, secretary and treasurer of the Plymouth Mutual Exchange.

Adverse weather conditions that delayed many in procuring their plants is largely to blame for this condition as is also the fact that the plants were scarce at the time that the weather was favorable for transplanting.

Last year the harvest began the last week in June, but this year the work will begin about the first or second week in July, and by the third week in July the gathering of the tomatoes will be at its peak. This will mean a rush for the market when they do begin to ripen for shipping.

It is usually the case that when tomatoes are shipped that the early ones will bring the higher prices, and as they begin to flood the market the price drops, but many think that the price will be better this year on account of the apparent scarcity in the crop.

As many as 1,200 acres have been planted here in other seasons, but Mr. Stillman is doubtful that the acreage this year will be over 700 as his organization which with the one at Roper is possibly the largest growers in the county will have about 250 acres while Roper may have some more.

However, there is a group of independents who are planting this season, and they will not plant for any organization or sell through any exchange. A private selling agency may be established here by them to take care of the marketing of their crop.

Local U. D. C. Chapter Sponsoring Local Play

The local chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy are sponsoring a home talent play on Thursday evening, May 17 at the high school building at 8 o'clock for the benefit of the Confederate Monument Fund.

The title of the play is "The Thread of Destiny," being coached by Mrs. Frank Nurney, with 25 of Plymouth's most talented young ladies and gentlemen in it. There are four negro characters in the story and good old Southern aristocracy a plenty. Most of the actors are taken from the cast who always play in the Firemen's plays, so it ought to be good.

The U. D. C. members have worked diligently all fall and winter towards this goal of the Confederate Monument Fund, and will highly appreciate each and every citizen of the county giving his or her support towards anything that they sponsor towards the monument. Old historical Washington County must have a Confederate monument erected to its gallant heroes.

Mrs. Hassell Hostess

Mrs. Louis Hassell was a gracious hostess on Thursday afternoon, May 10th, at her pretty county home, to the Thursday afternoon literary club.

A handsome profusion of choice spring flowers were arranged artistically to form a background for the guests and after a brief business meeting, a most delightful literary program was rendered during which Mrs. R. W. Johnston read a biography on Martha Berry, while Mrs. C. L. Groves also read an account of the life of another woman of importance in the literary world.

At the adjournment of the meeting, the hostess served a delicious plate of congealed combination salad, sliced ham, cheese balls, sandwiches, ginger bread with whipped cream and iced tea.

Use of Land Rented by Government This Year

The area of the rented acreage planted to grazing or pasture or any other crop planted for home consumption or use on the farm shall not exceed one-half of the total rented acres, are the conditions upon which tobacco contracts are based. If none of the acreage is planted to crops for home consumption then all the rented acres may be grazed or pastured provided that the livestock pastured or the products from this livestock are for home consumption only.

Some Farmers Unable To Establish Sales Evidence

North Carolina farmers who have been selling their surplus hogs to unknown truck drivers cannot establish sales evidence and therefore are not signing corn-hog contracts.

THE BATTLE OF PLYMOUTH

By MRS. SIDNEY A. WARD

(This is a story of the Battle of Plymouth during the Civil War, as read during a recent meeting of the Major Charles Louis Latham Chapter of the U. D. C. at Plymouth by Mrs. Sidney A. Ward. It gives some interesting facts not published before in this county.—Ed.)

During the Civil War period, waterways afforded the easiest and quickest means of transportation. The Roanoke River in North Carolina not only afforded transportation but opened for many miles up the State, a large and rich country from which the Confederates could obtain food supplies for the soldiers and horses of the army. In order to prevent this the Federals captured and fortified the town of Plymouth situated near the mouth of the river on the south side of it, and for twelve months occupied the town.

During this time the greater part of Lee's army was being centered in Virginia, with "On to Richmond" the battle cry. Naturally large quantities of food and grain were needed for the men and horses, and as mentioned above the Roanoke River lands could supply much of this. Therefore it was determined to recapture Plymouth, the entrance port to these lands.

It was appropriate that two N. C. officers should be put in charge of this campaign. General Hoke on land and Commander Cook on water, in command of the ram Albemarle. The forces under General Hoke were his own brigade composed of 6th, 21st and 43rd N. C. Regiment and 21st Georgia Regiment under command of Colonel Mercer of the Georgia regiment. Ransom's brigade, under Brigadier General M. W. Ransom, composed of the 24th, 25th, 56th, 8th and 35th N. C. Regiments and Kemper's brigade from under Colonel Terry. The Federal forces, under command of Brigadier General Wessels, consisted of regiments from N. Y., Conn., Penn., Mass. and two regiments recruited in N. C. They were aided on the water by gunboats, the Miami, Southfield, Whitehead and Ceres.

As they had been here 12 months every effort had been made to render the place secure from attack, and was considered well-nigh invulnerable to assault from an equal number of troops.

There were 3,500 Federal troops here. The fortifications were in the shape of a parallelogram, in the center of which, just to the last of the Lee's Mills road was Fort Williams, the main fortification manned with six guns, this was surrounded by a moat and palisade made of logs chained together and entrance made through an iron gate. Breastworks were around south and west of the town. The different roads leading into the town were further protected against invasion by redoubts or smaller forts.

To the east on the Columbia road was a swamp, the passage through which was very difficult, this natural protection, with redoubts at James Bateman's and Charles Latham's with two guns each were considered sufficient protection here.

On the Washington and Jamesville road, about one-half mile from the breastworks of the town was Fort Sanderson also called Fort Wessels. In addition to this there were redoubts at the Harriet Toodle house and at the end of Second and Third Streets.

On Warren's Neck, a bluff commanding the entrance to two creeks emptying into the Roanoke was another fort carrying three guns, this was for the purpose of destroying any Confederate boat that might come down the river. The breastworks came around the west side of the town and ran down to the river, here an additional fort with guns was located to further assist the gunboats in case of a fight on water.

With this well planned fortification and the natural protection afforded by the creeks and swamps which surround the town, the Federals felt fairly secure. However, a chain is no stronger than its weakest link and the rebels found that link on the east side of the town.

The Confederate forces had been collected rapidly at Tarboro from which place the expedition started on April 15, 1864, and arrived within five miles of Plymouth by 4 P. M. on Sunday the 17th, capturing the pickets and routing a company of cavalry. During the night the guns are placed in position to attack the forts on the west side of the town. All next day, Monday, is passed in shelling by the artillery and before night Fort Sanderson had been silenced. Although they have received a hot fire from Fort Williams. That afternoon Ransom's brigade is stationed with the artillery between the Washington Road and the Lee's Mill Road, beginning at Frank Fagan's house and reaching to Red Gap or Red Hill, as we know it.

Hoke's brigade reached from the Washington Road to the river. About five o'clock they advance on the town and soon drive the enemy over their breastworks, taking position after position. They keep this up until ten P. M. The object being to draw the fire as much as possible in that direction away from the river, so as to allow the Albemarle to come up the river without much resistance. A Richmond paper describes the skirmishing that night in these words, "The action commenced about sunset, the night being perfectly clear with a full moon, every object being visible.

The sight was magnificent, the screaming, hissing shells meeting and passing each other through the sulphurous air, appeared like blazing comets with their burning fuses and would burst with frightful noise scattering their fragments as thick as hail.

By 10 o'clock they had captured the redoubt of the Sanderson house, not without loss however, as the gallant Colonel Mercer of the Georgia Regiment was killed. He is buried in Tarboro beside General W. D. Pender who was a classmate of his at West Point.

Towards day, Colonel Clark with regiments was posted below the town on the Columbia Road to prevent escape in that direction. The Yankees were still confident in the strength of their fortifications, even after the loss of that Sanderson and the arrival of the Albemarle, which came up the river the night of the 19th and passed the big gun on Warren's Neck unharmed. Engaging the gunboats it sank one of them, the Southfield, and chased off the others.

That same night General Hoke ordered General Ransom's Brigade to make an assault from the east side of the Columbia Road. Accordingly that night the sharpshooters effected a crossing of Conaby Creek and felled trees. A pontoon bridge was laid and before the night was advanced, the brigade was over on the Yankee side. With a line of skirmishes out in front the brigade slept in line of battle.

That intuitive perception, with which the private soldier could often foretell the intent with which a move is made, now comes into play, and through the brigade the feeling becomes universal that it has been determined to make the final assault from the east side of the town and that Ransom's Brigade would be required to perform that duty. Laughing and joked almost ceased and grim determination to do all that could be expected seemed to pervade the ranks. The enemy kept up shelling throughout the night but with not much effect.

It is now April 20, and just as the moon was going down and day breaking General Ransom is in the saddle and his ringing voice comes down the line: "Attention, Brigade." Every man was upon his feet instantly and soon on the march. In the meantime the signal rocket gives notice to General Hoke on the west side of the town that General Ransom is ready to advance. On their march, they had to ford a canal and pass through the water of unknown depth, they flounder through as best they could, wet to the waist, and some of them all over, aching they stumbled over cypress knees. Routing the pickets they encounter, they press their advance. The 8th and 35th regiments take Fort Comfort and the 24th overcomes all opposition from Bateman and Latham redoubts.

They continue their advance in the face of terrific firing, the Yankees having brought to bear both siege and field guns and concentrated a terrific fire on the assaulting column. Several are wounded and killed. Steadily the line forces forward and performs the duty assigned, and soon they have reached the town. One of Ransom's regiments hoed the entrance to Water, Second and Third Streets.

The enemy now fire from behind fences, from windows and tops of houses and from cellars, but as Major Graham says of them, "we soon had them popping out of their hiding places and running much as ground hogs would." On the second day of February they sought safety in their last stronghold, Fort Williams. They pass Adams, Washington and Jefferson Streets receiving a severe fire from Fort Williams as they passed Jefferson. Several being wounded and killed. They next reach Monroe Street, here Company B, under

Captain Harrell, captures Fort Worth at the entrenchment at the west end of Water Street. The rest of the regiment, under Major Graham, capture the battery of artillery which has been sweeping Second Street. They are making ready to charge the entrenched camp between Second and Third Streets when the white flag goes up and surrender is made to Major Graham.

He stands on the breastworks and waves the flag of the regiment to General Hoke on the west end of the town, to tell him the way is clear. Hoke's Brigade, under Colonel Lewis now comes up and it is a relief when he says that in General Hoke's opinion no further charging is necessary, as he thought the surrender of Fort Williams could be compelled by the artillery.

The town was now entirely the Confederates' except this last strong fort. Its surrender was demanded and refused. General Hoke informs General Wessels that if he provokes a useless sacrifice of life in requiring an assault, not a man in the garrison will be spared, and between 11 and 12 o'clock a. m. the flag comes down and success crowns their struggle.

In the hour of triumph General Hoke showed himself to be a true gentleman by his courteous and considerate bearings towards his captives, doing all he could to lessen the sting of defeat. Dismissing from his horse he assures General Wessels of his respect and admiration. All the fighting is over now except the pursuit of some negroes who had escaped from one of the camps and some Buffaloes many of whom were captured.

Now they may rest for a while. At night the troops were marched out of town and the dead buried with military honors. On the following day, the 24th regiment was sent to garrison the town, where it remained for a day or two, when it was relieved by the 50th Regiment, North Carolina troops, and Ransom's Brigade was sent to lay siege to Washington, N. C.

The recapture of Plymouth under the existing circumstances was one of the most splendid victories achieved by Southern Armies and was recognized as such by the Confederacy. There were few if any of them, who when all was over, might have said in the words of St. Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I have kept the faith."

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