

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

# THE ROANOKE BEACON

AND WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS

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## ROBERSON TRIAL SCHEDULED FOR SUPERIOR COURT

### Complicated Matter To Secure Jury to Try Publicized Case

Fraught with accusations of perjury and bribery, the famous case of W. W. Roberson against the Virginia Electric and Power Company and the Stone and Webster Engineering Corporation will be given a new trial at a special one-week term of Washington County Superior Court that will be held here September 24.

This case was remanded back to Superior Court here by the North Carolina Supreme Court in which it was described as "the wierdest of them all." Later Judge Walter L. Small wrote an opinion in the matter ordering a new trial for the case that at the first trial consumed about two weeks.

Governor Ehringhaus has set aside only one week for the retrial here with Judge W. A. Grady, of Kinston, as the presiding jurist. C. V. W. Ausbon, clerk of superior court here for close to 30 years, thinks that it will take more than a week for disposition.

So much publicity has been attached to this case that it will be almost impossible to find a juror that knows nothing about the case or who has not a relative or close friend among the other 22 plaintiffs who have cases similar to the one of Mr. Roberson.

Another keen observer of the courts here is of the opinion that Judge Grady will not allow a venire from another county, and if this is so, then it will take almost the first part of the week to sift the prospective jurors to determine the men who will sit in judgment on the matter.

The first time the case was tried it cost the county \$1,500 for the two weeks court. This time it is predicted that it will cost at least \$800 for the one week.

Mr. Roberson charges the power company that through neglect a fire that was alleged to have been started by employees burned an area of forest owned by Mr. Roberson doing him a damage of \$3,000. The fire was alleged to have been set by the power firm's agents to burn out a yellow jacket's nest. This was to have happened back in 1930.

The fire spread to other tracts in the forest and as a result a total of 22 plaintiffs have similar suits as Mr. Roberson and the total amount asked of the power firm would amount to about \$60,000. A jury awarded Mr. Roberson a verdict of \$1,000 in the first trial which was appealed.

The chief witness in the case was Maurice Whedbee, a young mechanic here, whose grandfather was the plaintiff in the test case. Whedbee first offered testimony in the first trial and then later in a public deposition repudiated this testimony and later declared that his affidavit was wrong and that his first testimony was right.

Then he incriminated a well known citizen who he declared paid him money to change his testimony to suit the power company. His first testimony was that he saw the employees of the power firm start the fire. In an affidavit he confessed this was false and in a deposition declared that his first testimony was true.

The supreme court could not determine the matter upon evidence of a witness of this kind and so Chief Justice Stacey asked that the case be remanded and Judge Small ordered a new trial. The supreme court had not had a case in years in which the chief witness had contradicted himself in affidavits and depositions.

## Issues Statement Relative To Closing Welfare Office

Herewith is a statement made to the press by Mrs. W. C. Brewer, superintendent of public welfare of Washington County, whose office was abolished by the commissioners in special session here July 5:

"The county pays me the total of \$83.33. This includes travel and salary. The cases the county sends to institutions 5 cents per mile is allowed.

"Last July the Board of Commissioners with the Board of Education agreed to pay my full salary as the state would no longer pay half since the teachers are paid by them and the relief fund assumed so much of the poor relief. The State Board of Welfare requested my salary to be increased. The commissioners requested I take the office for two years at the same salary. This I agreed to do.

"I regret very much the Board feels the county must economize by abolishing the welfare office as the work is of vital importance and it has been a pleasure to serve in this capacity."

## FREE SERVICE IS OFFERED TO UNEMPLOYED

### Luther R. Ausbon Is Manager Of Service In Washington County

"Is this the place where you sign up for a job?"

Never a day passes but that question is put hopefully, anxiously, by inquiring men and women at the office of the National Reemployment Service.

The answer goes something like this, "Well, yes and no. You register the fact that you are out of work and want a job. We'll get you a job when and if possible."

The applicant duly impressed or not by the answer to his question, proceeds to register, giving a moderately complete record of his life to date, including a work history which includes his "last job," his "longest job," and his "best job," the latter invariably being the one at which he was paid the highest salary in terms of money.

Having signed his name to the record, he goes away firmly expecting the wonder of a job to happen to him unless he is one of those skeptics who believe that "it's no use to register, but I'll do it anyway. Maybe a miracle will happen."

Our files in Washington County are full of men and women who are anxious for employment, and are equal to most any kind of call that may come from employers. The service is most anxious that there shall be more who will take advantage of its files. No job is too insignificant for its attention, and none is too large, for we have at our disposal the files of the entire state to draw from for such skilled men that cannot be furnished locally. Employers may find that former employees, laid off for lack of business, may be contacted quickly through the reemployment service.

We have found jobs for 153 men and women of Washington County in private employment since April 1st, when the CWA was brought to a close. Most of these placements were in seasonal employment, and of course will return to renew their application when this temporary employment is over.

This service is a part of the U. S. Department of Labor, being a branch of the United States Employment Service and offers free service to all unemployed men and women who should take advantage of it and register, or if you have registered, call at the office in Plymouth and renew your registration as all who had not renewed their registration on June 30th were cancelled and are not subject to call.

This service is also free to all classes of employers, whether you are operating a saw mill, canning plant, farming, need a carpenter or painter for a job around your private premises, or a cook, nurse or other domestic labor such as trimming lawns and working gardens. Luther R. Ausbon, manager of this service in Washington County, with headquarters in Plymouth, is anxious for you to take advantage of its files for your labor needs.

## Series of Sermons at First Christian Church

Rev. Cecil Jorman, pastor of the First Christian Church, Plymouth, announces a series of sermons which will begin next Sunday evening at 8 o'clock. There will be two sermons in the series. Next Sunday evening the subject will be, "What's Right With the Church." The following Sunday evening, July 29th, the minister will speak on "What's Wrong With the Church."

The theme for the morning worship service Sunday, July 22, will be "Workers With God." A cordial invitation is extended to all.

## Club Schedule For Next Week Is Announced

By Eugenia Patterson, Home Agent

Following is the schedule for next week:

- Monday, July 23—Scuppernon.
- Tuesday, July 24—Cross Roads.
- Wednesday, July 25—Cool Springs.
- Thursday, July 26—Piney Grove.
- Friday, July 27—Lake Farm.
- Saturday morning, July 28—Curb market at 8:15.

## Revival Meeting This Week At Oak Grove

A revival meeting is being held at Oak Grove Baptist Church this week by the pastor, Rev. W. H. Hollowell, assisted by Rev. Richard Lucas of Plymouth. It began July 15 and will last over through Sunday night. The public is cordially invited to attend the services.

## Peg Cox Connected With Child Welfare Survey

W. B. (Peg) Cox is now working in the child welfare survey being conducted in Washington County. He is helping in the work started by Mrs. Kitty Norman.

Veterans of the World War are urged to see Mr. Cox or either report at the office, bringing their discharge papers with them. Mr. Cox urges those who know of a veteran in this county to inform him about it so that each one will be visited in the survey and a record made.

## BASEBALL TEAM ENTERS SECOND HALF STRONG

### Plymouth Had Seven Hitters Over .300 During First Half

Into the second half of the Albemarle Baseball league went the Plymouth team with seven hitters who had been tapping the apple at an average of over .300 per cent.

Yet, this same group of clouters let their club struggle along with a low percentage of .427 in games won and end up in about fifth place. Hitting when hits meant runs seemed to never be the fortune of these good batters. Opposing pitchers would conquer them when a hit was needed.

Monk Morris, who has been a player of many positions with an average of .381 leads the gang with the stick. Morris has played centerfield, second base and third base doing his tour of duty with the local club. Now he is playing shortstop for Preston Chappell to hang around the keystone bag.

Dallas Morris, at third has a weak batting average of .294 but he has scored 33 runs to lead the club in this department. As first man in the lineup he has been walked a number of times, thanks to his good eye on the ball. Baker Brown with a mark of .217 is at the bottom of the group but he has been doing some good catching.

Release of Johnson who has been hitting at a .339 clip and who was the regular catcher called for Brown behind the bat. He has been much better here than on second s he was too slow for the keystone bag. However, he is fast enough with the ball behind the bat. He threw out three out of four fellows trying to steal second in one game.

	Ab.	H	R	Pct.
D. Morris, 3b	119	35	33	.294
Chappell, 2b	122	46	24	.397
Van Horn, 1b	114	38	17	.333
Johnson, c	68	23	10	.339
Humphrey, p	6	2	0	.367
M. Morris, ss	105	40	18	.381
Edens, cf	110	41	22	.373
Brown, c	106	23	10	.217
H. Burnham, p	28	9	4	.322
Seitz, rf	8	0	1	.000
Hudson, lf	68	17	9	.250

Prof. Red Scully has been released. Clyde Humphreys has been named manager and has shaken up the squad in a good way. He will probably do some good work with the boys in the last half. A little more batting punch with some good hurlers should bring Plymouth out in a better standing in the last half.

Plymouth landed on top of the Albemarle League Wednesday afternoon when they counted their first victory of the season over Edenton 7 to 5. The locals have played two games with Ahoskie and Edenton and won both of them in the second half.

Monk Morris with three hits did some stellar playing also at shortstop while Tex Edens with three added brilliance to his playing with repeated fielding games. Rudy Seitz did some good relief hurling, allowing one hit in five innings and slammed out two hits himself.

Clyde Humphreys started the game and being manager took himself out and put in Seitz. Plymouth was two runs behind. This was the first time Plymouth ever whipped Hoens in a good number of starts.

## Albemarle Club Holds Its Monthly Meeting

Skinnerville. — The Albemarle Home Demonstration Club held its monthly meeting with Mrs. Tom Basnight on Wednesday afternoon at her home on Holly Neck with ten members and two visitors present.

The meeting was presided over by Mrs. Clinton Everett in the absence of the president.

Miss Eugenia Patterson, home demonstration agent, gave a demonstration on beet relish and asked each member to pay 10 cents of the club dues by July 30. The remainder of the time was spent in making pickle recipes.

## PROCEEDINGS IN SUPERIOR COURT HERE LAST WEEK

### Favorable Report Made By Grand Jury Following Property Inspection

A jury in Washington County Superior Court last week acquitted Roy Lucas, but Herbert Holton, who was indicted in the same case on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon, was found guilty. Mr. Holton was sentenced to the roads for one year, but the road term was suspended upon the payment of the costs and good behavior for two years. The case against Roy Lucas for violation of the dry law was not prosessed.

Otis Godwin was arraigned on a charge of an assault with a deadly weapon but was found guilty of a simple assault. He was fined \$50 and taxed with the costs, and he must appear in January, 1935, to show that he has complied with the order of the court. Appearance bond was fixed at \$200.

Johnnie Oliver, fined \$25 and costs for trespassing. His appearance bond was fixed at \$100. He also must appear to show that he has complied with the order of the court.

Aaron Pettiford was fined \$10 and taxed with the costs on a charge of being a nuisance.

Lade Stealey, alias Lady Rascoe, was sent to the roads for three months for an assault with a deadly weapon.

The case of L. D. Lamb against W. H. Clark was, on motion by counsel, dismissed.

A complete divorce was granted Della Allen from Fleming Allen, Sr., as they have been living apart for the required two years.

The case of Edward L. Owens against the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company was dismissed. An appeal was noted and bond posted.

Howard Bateman was found not guilty in the case charging him with violating the prohibition law.

Mike Atamanchuk was found not guilty of violating the traffic laws. This case was a result of a wreck in which Thurlow Spruill was injured. He recovered but still bears the scars on his face.

The grand jury found everything in good condition in its inspection of county offices and property. Ben A. Sumner was foreman of the jury.

## OWENS WILL NOT BE CANDIDATE IN HOUSE ELECTION

### Issues Statement to County Democratic Executive Committee

In a statement to Edward S. Blount, chairman of the Washington County Democratic Executive Committee, Ambrose L. Owens definitely stated that he would not be a candidate in the November election for the House of Representatives from Washington County.

It had been thought and Mr. Owens affirmed the reports last week that he was anticipating running as an independent in the coming general election. However, Mr. Owens decided after a conversation with Mr. Blount to refrain from announcing his candidacy.

This leaves the race unless a dark horse appears to J. Richard Carr, the Republican candidate, and Harry Stell, Democratic aspirant. Mr. Stell won the choice for nomination by leading J. C. Gattin and E. L. Owens in the first primary and in the second nosed out the younger Owens by 15 votes.

Asked for reasons why he failed to announce as it had first appeared, Mr. Owens replied that "I am too good a Democrat to do such a thing."

## Revival To Begin Monday In Creswell M. E. Church

Creswell.—A revival of unusual interest will begin in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in Creswell, Monday, July 23. The Rev. T. W. Lee, of Windsor, will do the preaching through the series of services.

Rev. Mr. Lee is a strong, convincing and pleasing speaker. The Christians and members of the different churches of Creswell and community are urged to cooperate in the meeting, and the public is invited to attend all the services.

## Rev. Poteat To Preach Sunday at Chapel Hill

Rev. J. H. Poteat will preach at the Chapel Hill school house Sunday night, July 22, at 8 o'clock. His subject will be "The Value of the Bible." Everybody is urged to attend.

## Big Crowd Attends Field Day Program Held In Wenona

Wenona.—Cloudy weather failed to dampen the ardor of the throng of farm men and women who gathered here today for the tenth annual field day of the Blackland Tes Farm that is operated under the supervision of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

Diversification in farming and agriculture research were the features of the occasion followed closely by the speaking of Dennis G. Brummitt, attorney general of North Carolina; William A. Graham, commissioner of agriculture of North Carolina and other notables.

Music was provided by the Belhaven String Band. J. W. Starr, of Creswell, presided over the occasion. Claude R. Wick-

ard, associate director of the corn and hog section of the AAA, spoke on the corn and hog adjustment program. The welcome was made by F. E. Miller, director of State Test Farms.

Invocation was by Rev. Cecil Jarman, pastor of the Christian Church in Plymouth. W. H. Rankin, of State College, spoke on soils. Mr. Wickard was introduced by Earl H. Hostetler. Dinner was brought by many families and groups.

A ladies' program in the afternoon supervised by Miss Eugenia Patterson was also a feature of the day. The afternoon was spent by the men in visiting the exhibits, engaging in contests and making field inspection trips of the plots.

## CHAPPELL HURT

Preston Chappell, star shortstop on the local baseball team, suffered painful bruises on the leg but no broken bones when he jumped from an open Ford when he thought the car was going to crash into a Coast Line freight engine at a blind grade crossing on Washington Street in Williamston Thursday afternoon. A league umpire and another of the car occupants sailed out at the same time, but they were not badly hurt when they fell to the pavement.

Player VanHorn, driver of the car, and another occupant held to their seats and cleared the crossing with the auto by about 12 inches, it was said. He was driving about 15 miles an hour when he saw the train only a few yards away.

VanHorn said he saw no flagman and heard no signals when he approached the crossing.

Chappell was left in a doctor's office in Williamston for treatment, the remainder of the team continuing on to Edenton for a scheduled game.

Just how long Chappell will be held out of play could not be learned here today, but it is hoped that it will be for a short while only.

During the meantime, VanHorn is driving no more cars, he declared immediately after the accident.

## CRESWELL BANK ASSETS SELL FOR VERY SMALL SUM

Assets, totaling \$37,086.70, bring \$355. at Auction Sale Held Here

Assets, totaling \$37,086.70 of the Peoples Bank of Creswell, brought only \$355 at an auction sale at the courthouse door here, May 21, it was learned from a report of the commissioner filed by Attorney W. L. Whitely in Superior Court here last week.

This included \$100 as a compromise settlement between Zeb Vance Norman and the court which was approved. Included in the loans and interest charge to Mr. Norman were five separate items that amounted to approximately \$5,000.

Loans, discounts, interest, stock assessment judgments and real estate amounted to \$5,333.20 not including 509 acres of Somerset Plantation land the the Gibbs tract in Lake Landing, Hyde County.

All except the item bought in by Mr. Norman were purchased by J. F. Snell who was bidding for J. R. Snell. Most of these items were barred from collection by the statute of limitations and many of those which were good at the time they secured the loans are now insolvent.

W. O. Crump has been liquidating the bank under the supervision of Gurney P. Hood, commissioner of banks of North Carolina. Mr. Whitely has been acting for the bank commissioner in a legal status here and has sold the property twice before the court approved of the sale.

Mr. Whitely recommended the acceptance of the bid for the combined assets after finding that the property was swamp land that had been cut-over and that a buyer was hard to find who wanted the real estate bad enough to be responsible for the taxes.

## Reduction In Price Of Air Mail Is Announced

A reduction in the price of air mail has been announced here by Postmaster G. W. Hardison. Also there is a map prominently posted in the lobby of the post office here showing the route of the air mail. This reduction makes it possible for many to mail their letters at a reduction and get as good a service as heretofore.

## TOMATO PLANTS CLOSED DUE TO DROP IN PRICES

### Hoped That Canneries Will Help Take Care of Surplus

A break down in prices of tomatoes caused most of the plants here to close this week.

The Plymouth Mutual Exchange has not wrapped or shipped any green tomatoes to the northern markets since last week. Andrews and Knowles closed Tuesday. Ernest Arps has quit buying also.

W. R. Hampton will operate canneries at Roper and Plymouth this year. He will probably help in taking care of the surplus. This week the season should have been at its peak but the break down in prices has resulted in the cessation of the wrapping and shipping.

Last prices quoted here were from 25 to 60 cents a basket. This is much too low. Many times this price has been doubled in years gone by. The price does not justify the farmer in gathering and marketing. Unless the canneries do help out by taking the surplus, much of the crop will rot in the fields.

## COST OF GINNING MAY BE REDUCED IS NOW THOUGHT

### Proposed Ginners' Marketing Agreement Turned Down in Washington

Washington.—Prospect of a material reduction to the farmer in the cost of ginning cotton, was seen by the farm administration, as it dropped formally a proposed ginners' marketing agreement.

So long as the agreement had been a live factor, it was explained, ginning prices stiffened. Now, however, administration officials said, there was every reason to believe that the "wide open" competitive situation created, would result in a big saving to the producer.

The projected marketing agreement, brought forward by the ginners, was discarded, the AAA said, because the industry declined to accept it unless it carried rate-fixing provisions.

This insistence upon guaranteed prices for ginning was manifested, it was added, in a dozen hearings throughout the cotton belt, completed only recently.

Cully A. Cobb, chief of the administration's cotton section, announced the death of the agreement in these words:

"The administration finds itself unable to sanction and enforce fixed rates for ginning services, and as the industry felt this was a primary requirement for successful operation of the agreement, we have but one alternative—that is, to discontinue our present efforts to effect an agreement."

The ginners had proposed rates, exclusive of bagging and ties, ranging from thirty-five cents per one hundred pounds in sections of the Old South to forty-five cents in Texas.

## MRS. CHAS BOWEN WINS IN GARDEN CLUB CONTESTS

### Gets Free Trip To Meeting In Raleigh; Mrs. Louis Bowen Is Second

By MISS EUGENIA PATTERSON

Each year the Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs of Washington County women offers a trip to the annual short course from farm women and men, to the garden leader doing the most outstanding work in her project. This is a contest that is always warm and seems filled with friendly rivalry among the club garden leaders, and the prizes are much sought for.

This year the garden leaders, all new in the "garden leadership game," were handicapped by the weather conditions in getting an early start in the work, but being full of determination and courage they all went forward with brave efforts. Some, of course, have been more successful than others but they have all done well. They started out with high aims and some have gone over the top in spite of hindrances.

Some of the aims were as follows:

1. To grow at least two new vegetables never grown in their gardens before and to get each club member to do the same.
2. To plant enough vegetables to have a surplus to can for winter use, and to have an all-the-year-around garden.
3. To have a variety of vegetables in order that a balanced diet could be served 365 days to the year from the home garden and pantry shelves.
4. That each leader's garden be a community demonstration garden for each local community.
5. That each member have a garden plan, keep records of costs on and income from the garden.

These were just some of the important goals and there were others, too. Now, some people may think that gardening is just a little past-time work, but not real gardening; it is work, and the winners have well deserved their rewards.

This year the Federation was fortunate in securing Mr. E. B. Morrow, State Garden Specialist, to judge the gardens and decide on the winners in the contest. Tuesday morning at eight o'clock, the judging trip was started. The first stop being at the "Baby Club" leader's garden, that of Mrs. Bettie Furlough of the Mt. Tabor Club, and it was hard to beat. Mr. Morrow says "her garden shows that she is no new hand at the job."

Of all the gardens visited, none had the "old timey" herbs that were in Mrs. Bettie's garden.

From there we went to Mrs. Janie Davenport's, the Cherry leader. Considering the dry weather there, she has done splendid. When you say "dry weather" around Plymouth they don't understand.

The next garden was that of Mrs. Fred Smith's of Creswell. She has really had a garden and just two people to eat from it. Her records have been splendidly kept and we congratulate Creswell Club on having such a splendid and interested leader as Mrs. Smith.

The judge hurried on to the Scuppernon leader's garden, and there we found that "old man weather" had left his imprint, but she is still working, even if the rabbits helped the weather out. Mrs. Cahoon is a splendid gardener for she showed us what she could do last year.

About eleven o'clock, when the sun was getting things warmed up, we arrived at the home of Mrs. Lena Alexander's in the Piney Grove club. She took us for a little stroll back in the field and did she have a big garden? Everything was plentiful and prosperous looking.

Not being able to stay at one place long at a time, we rushed on to see Mrs. Chester Spruill's garden in the Albemarle club. Here we found everything in "trim." She hasn't just stopped at feeding her own family, but she has supplied several of her neighbors with surplus vegetables. She is a real gardener.

Right next door lives the Pleasant Grove leader, Mrs. W. W. White. She let us check her garden and while we were busy at that, she was busy inside. On our return to the house, she served us with delicious lemonade. It was a real life saver, but besides her thoughtfulness she has kept nice records of cost and plantings, and gave in a splendid report of the canned vegetables that she got from her spring garden.

At noon time we reached the County Bridge gardener, but she isn't "trailing" by any means. Considering that she had to make her garden spot and start in about three months after the other leaders, she did a splendid piece of work.

The Roper gardener's work was inspected next, this being that of Mrs. L. L. Mizelle. She has been handi-

(Continued on the back page)