

A. Louis Alexander Missing From Home Here Since Monday

Prominent in Local Affairs For Years; Letter Says 'Will Never Return'

A. Louis Alexander, well-known local man and large-scale farmer in this county, disappeared from his home on Main Street here last Monday evening and has not been heard from since. Said to have had several hundred dollars on his person, Mr. Alexander took all his clothes and drove away in his automobile while members of the family were in the town's business center, leaving, as far as it could be learned, no information as to his future plans. He sold tobacco that morning, and upon returning home that afternoon he explained to one of his tenants that he would see him the following morning, but disappeared to parts unknown to the members of his family during the meantime.

The action of the man who served as postmaster of the local office for 12 years and who, since his retirement from that position operated a wholesale grocery business, came as a surprise to the family and friends here generally.

While domestic troubles may have prompted the action, it is believed that adverse business conditions experienced over a period of years had much to do with his unexpected and sudden departure this week.

A letter was received from Mr. Alexander Wednesday that was postmarked at Richmond advising the members of his family that he was "never going to return," and that he was leaving Richmond immediately for "parts unknown."

It is generally believed now that Mr. Alexander had close to \$4,000 in cash when he left. Every detail of his quick departure seemed to have been planned and carried out to the letter. Money owing to him was collected, farm crops sold, some even without harvesting.

Checks were given last week-end that were timed to turn up here Tuesday morning for collection through the local bank. Upwards of \$2,500 had been presented for payment but have been returned. It was said that a check to Joe Mathias, Norfolk grocer salesman, was returned unpaid in the amount of \$1,500.

His estate here was left in a scramble. Some time before some of his property was deeded over to his wife. His family is making every possible arrangement to prepare to take care of obligations when they fall due in the next few months.

Attendance at White Schools in County Has Been Very Good

Figures for First Month Are Given by Superintendent County Schools

Enrollment and attendance at the white schools in Washington County this year has been very good for the first month, according to H. H. McLean, superintendent of public instruction.

Plymouth: Enrollment, elementary school, 398; high school, 149; total 547. Attendance: elementary, 368; high school, 142; total 510. Only 37 difference between enrollment and attendance.

Roper: Enrollment, elementary, 237; high school, 93; total 330. Attendance: elementary, 228; high school 89; total 317. Only 17 difference in enrollment and attendance.

Creswell: Enrollment, elementary 350; high school 131, total 481. Attendance: Elementary 335; high school, 118, total 453. A difference of 28 in enrollment and attendance.

Cherry: Elementary only. Enrollment 155; and attendance 138. Difference of 17.

Nest of Black Widow Spiders Found Here

More dread for the people of Plymouth, as the black widow spider has been discovered on the suburbs by Garland Hardison, who brought a couple of specimens to the local newspaper office in a glass container.

He found a nest of them near his home. They have beneath their stomachs the famous pink or red that characterizes them. They are said by some to be very poisonous, while others claim that they are no more dangerous than any other such creatures.

Only Article That Can Compare With Tobacco in Peculiarity Is Whiskey

(Hertford County Herald) "You know anything about this tobacco business?" George J. Newbern, local automobile dealer and farm owner inquired this week. And he went on to explain that he couldn't understand the system of buying in which two lots of tobacco from the same barn bought by the same buyers would sell at widely varying prices in the same grades, on the same day, and on the same warehouse floor.

"We can't understand it, and have never seen anything like it," he was told in response to his question. To which Newbern added, "The only other thing I know as peculiar as tobacco is whiskey. Two men can drink the same amount of liquor at the same time from the same bottle. It makes one man happy and pleased with all the world; the other man it makes as mean as hell so that he wants to fight everybody he sees. What do you think?"

Farm Notes

By W. V. HAYS, County Agent

The corn-hog referendum will be held Saturday, October 26th. Voting polls will be open at the schoolhouse in Creswell, the schoolhouse in Roper, and the county agent's office in Plymouth from 9 a. m. until 6 p. m. Special ballot forms will be available for voting and non-contracting producers who had corn and hogs in 1935 as well as contracting producers may vote. Roy Litchfield and Dewey Phelps will be the pollholders at Creswell; Roy Stillman will be at Roper and R. B. Davenport at Plymouth. The purpose of this referendum is to ascertain whether or not corn and hog growers wish to continue the corn and hog contract. A vote is not binding in any way and does not mean that it will be necessary for the voter to sign a contract but our last Congress gave the Secretary of Agriculture authority to make contracts and benefit payments to producers when 75 per cent of those producers voted favorably on a basic commodity or crop.

Cotton producers will be interested to learn that a wire received October 22 from the Secretary of Agriculture changed the price on cotton ginning certificates from 5 cents to 4 cents and the tax when paid directly to the ginner from 6 cents to 5.45 cents pound.

The peanut benefit checks have been received at the county office and are ready for delivery. Notices have been mailed to those who received checks. Producers operating more than one farm, on which ruling No. 2 applied, and those producers who have hogged off or intend to hog off peanuts did not receive their checks in the first lot. These should reach the county at an early date and notices will immediately be sent these producers. A number of producers have not signed Pn-21, which is a voucher showing the number of tenants or share croppers on the farm and the acreage produced by these tenants. No checks will be delivered to such producers until this form has been signed.

Peanut picker operators who pick peanuts this year will be licensed without charge the same as last year and will be required to keep accurate picking reports on the number of bags picked on the various farms. A machine operator who has a peanut contract himself will be violating his contract and other commodity contracts signed by him should he pick peanuts grown by non-contracting farmers. Peanut producers are advised to get a receipt for all peanuts sold by them and turn this receipt in at the county office. These sales receipts will be credited to the contract the same as the 1935 contract. Producers who do not have a contract in 1935 are advised to also file their sales receipts. Please do not use adding machine strips but insist on a regular receipt form.

Tobacco growers are requested not to lend nor borrow tobacco marketing cards without having this transfer properly made through the county office. This is violation of the contract and the deficient producer would not receive adjustment payment or even get credit for his payments for adjustment unless it is properly transferred through the county office. This is official and according to regulations laid down to us to follow. I have been officially advised not to be a party to a transaction of this kind and have been asked to report irregularities. Do not buy marketing cards from neighbors, warehousemen or others. Go to the county office.

Clay County Farmers Fill Silos Cheap Cooperatively

By cooperative action, ten Clay County farmers filled their ten silos at a cost of \$8 each by buying a silage cutter for \$60 and an automobile engine for \$10. The men said it was the cheapest feed they had ever stored.

County Shows Gain In Production of Corn and Potatoes

Difference in Crops of 1929 and 1934 Shown by Recent Figures

Corn production was over 125,000 bushels greater and potato production about 100,000 bushels greater in 1934 than in 1929 in Washington County, it was revealed today by official statistics. Corn acreage increased from \$10,163 to 12,593 and the acreage of Irish potatoes from 292 to 938.

Tobacco was reduced from 1,630 acres and 803,145 pounds to 671 acres and 561,447 pounds. This was true for the 1934 crop. However, the 1935 crop of tobacco was given at 780 acres, yielding about 700,000 pounds, which if sold at an average of 20 cents would mean \$140,000, but many think it will average close to \$200,000.

Cattle numbered 70 per cent more in 1935 than in 1930, with 686 cattle five years ago and 1,080 today. Hog production has jumped from 7,604 to 10,632 this year and still meat is high. Sheep and lambs have climbed from 449 to 526. Mules and mule colts declined from 1,388 to 1,295, while the same is true of horses, dropping from 357 to 264.

There were about 10 per cent more farms and 4 per cent more land in farms in 1935 than in 1930. The average sizes decreased from 64.19 to 58.6 acres, and the average value per acre from \$42.69 to \$34.72. The number of farms has increased from 1,091 to 1,202. There are 22 more farm owners, making a total of 436 today.

The trend to farm ownership is proven by statistics. Total value of all farms is given at \$2,446,683, which is below that of 1930. The average farm is valued at \$2,936.

Revival Held Last Week in Creswell

A revival was held at the Methodist Protestant church in Creswell last week. The pastor, Rev. J. E. Mabry did the preaching and he brought some soul-stirring messages. The song services were conducted by Rev. Wayne Curtis and were enjoyed by everyone, especially the solos which he sang. The church was greatly revived. One new member was added. These services were well attended and the cooperation of the other churches was good.

Hallowe'en Party At Piney Grove

The Junior Society of Piney Grove Free Will Baptist church will sponsor a Hallowe'en party October 31 at the old schoolhouse. The money from this party will go for the benefit of the church. Amusements for the evening will include practically all of the well-known Hallowe'en games and contests. Prizes will be awarded and the holder of the lucky number will receive a beautiful bedspread. Everybody is invited to this old-time hocus-pocus party.

PLEASANT GROVE

Miss Hazel Spruill, of Wilson, spent the week-end with her father, George Spruill.

Miss Myrtle Tarkenton, of Columbia, was the week-end guest of her sister, Miss Nellie Tarkenton.

Mrs. H. R. Chesson was in Louisville Sunday, where she visited her daughter, Elizabeth, who is attending school there.

Mrs. J. E. Davenport has returned from Adar, after visiting her mother, who is very ill.

Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Chesson visited their daughters, Misses Fannie Clyde and Elsie, in Raleigh Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Duff Collins, Mrs. C. W. Snell, and Mrs. S. Z. Waters were the guests of Mrs. Ida Hodges Sunday night.

Tale of Adventurous Trip Told by Youth Upon Return Home

Roper Youngster Returned By Juvenile Officials In Florida

A tale of lurid adventure involving difficulties with the law in another state, was told here today by Bill Bell, 15, who ran away from home about two weeks, but was returned to a relative, Miss Ida Peacock, in Roper, by juvenile officials in Florida.

The youth told of meeting three companions in Elizabeth City, two girls and one boy of his own age, and from there they went to Daytona Beach, Fla., New Jersey, and other places. The four slept at times, according to Bell, in the same bed.

Bell had secured a job as bellboy in a Miami, Fla., hotel, when they were apprehended by the law and charged with spending the night with the girls and also for leaving his home without permission. Their conduct led them to a house of correction, from which Bell escaped but was apprehended again.

The four formed a conspiracy in an effort to prove that they were married to each other and persuaded authorities to permit them to leave the Dade County, Miami, jail, and who also sent them home to their people. The boy contends that he is married to the girl, told her name, but it is not being printed.

Young Bell is above the average in intelligence. He has worked on papers in Washington, D. C., teaching the city boys the circulation end of the business. He has caused relatives much trouble by leaving for days at the time and never turning up again until apprehended or compelled to return.

His parents died some time ago.

Main Circus Will Show Here Friday

The Walter L. Main Circus, which will exhibit in Plymouth for one day only, Friday, October 25, carries many of the greatest circus features in circuses today, and numbers among their personnel of performers, some of the outstanding acts of the world.

It seems that Walter L. Main, who is known to almost every circus performer as the "Governor," has sent more performers to the top of the ladder than any other showman on earth. He seems to have the knack of picking just the right kind of acts to give the maximum amount of entertainment for both the old as well as the young, and that is one of the reasons that the Walter L. Main Circus enjoys such a tremendous amount of popularity wherever shown for the past 52 years that Mr. Main has been presenting circus performances in America, and it seems that each succeeding season it takes to the road in the spring, that popularity seems to increase, which is shown by the added attendance by the old-timers, as well as the younger generation, and it is no easy matter to put together a well-balanced, smooth-running circus performance due to the necessity of considering every detail, such as the putting up and taking down of each kind of rigging used by various acts before the next act can start and many other details that the general public does not think of.

Among the many features this season is the great Labor Troupe of aerial performers who, in presenting their daring, death-defying stunts high up in midair, will thrill and send chills chasing each other up and down the spines of the most hardened thrill seekers, and would put the "man on the flying trapeze" to shame, and the grandeur and splendor of their glittering, be-spangled wardrobe make them one of the outstanding acts of its kind in America today.

There are many other features too numerous to mention such as animals, clowns, acrobats, wirewalkers, dogs, ponies, herds of elephants, and droves of camels, making up a full two-hours performance that will please every amusement-loving person. There will be two performances at 2 and 8 p. m., rain or shine at the ball park grounds.

Creswell Students Attend State Fair

Creswell.—About 30 members of the vocational agriculture class of Creswell attended the State Fair at Raleigh Friday under the leadership of their teacher, A. H. Tucker. Everyone reported having enjoyed the trip.

Some Foreclosures This Fall by HOLC Inevitable, Officials Say

Plymouth Legion Post Is Winner of Three Citations

First in State To Secure 100 Per Cent Renewals of Membership

Three members of the James E. Jethro post, No. 164, attended the American Legion meeting held in Raleigh Monday, October 21, at which time the state officers were installed. Those attending from this post were: P. W. Brown, athletic officer; R. L. Tetterton, service officer; and J. B. McNair, Americanization officer.

Plymouth post was awarded trophies and citations for being the first post in the state to reach 100 per cent in membership renewals, also first in securing its quota of new members for 1935-36.

At the posts' commanders and adjutants' meeting at the Sir Walter Hotel at 3:30 Monday afternoon, each post reaching 100 per cent was asked to tell the other posts how they did it. Several good speeches from different post officers were made, telling how each post gained its membership renewals, also quotas of new members. Comrades Tetterton and McNair spoke for Plymouth post, McNair in his talk emphasizing the importance of commanders keeping in close touch with members in order to create an interested body of men in the activities of each post.

After a very impressive parade, the Legionnaires enjoyed a barbecue supper at the Raleigh Memorial auditorium.

Daughter of School Superintendent Has Exceptional Record

Average of Between 95 and 100 Maintained During 11-Year Period

An average of between 95 and 100 has been maintained on all subjects during the last 11 years of school by Miss Sarah Stille McLean, of Plymouth, daughter of H. H. McLean, superintendent of public instruction in Washington County, and Mrs. McLean.

The young lady has not moved to Plymouth yet, as she is completing her senior year in school at Washington, N. C., where Mr. McLean was head of the school system for years. This school has 12 grades. And during her school work she has missed only an average of a day a year.

She is also a member of the student council at the Washington High School, and this week-end will attend a meeting of the state group of student council officials in Wilson. She is also an official on the school paper.

Mr. and Mrs. McLean and a small son have moved into a residence here on Jefferson Street, but they will continue their daughter in the Washington school until she completes high school education and then she will be sent to college next year.

Attending Chevrolet Service Mens School

Earl Ainsley, a mechanic for the Satterthwaite Chevrolet Company, is expected to return Saturday from a special school for Chevrolet mechanics that is being held in Charlotte this week. He left Tuesday for special training. He will see the new Chevrolet and will learn of the new mechanism of the new models.

MISS MARGIE WHITE ENTERTAINS MONDAY

Skinnerville.—Miss Margie White entertained friends of the Roper school at her home Monday celebrating her thirteenth birthday. The living room was beautiful with cut flowers and a color scheme of pink and white.

Miss Jamie Riddick played a number of selections on the piano with the young guests joining in singing. Games were played. In the dining room was a birthday cake with 13 candles burning brightly. Miss Jamie Riddick cut the cake and Mrs. Walter White served hot chocolate, peanuts, sandwiches, pickles and cake.

Home and Club News

By Mary Frances Misenheimer

Schedule for Next Week

Monday, October 28, 4-H Club. Tuesday, Cross Roads Club. Wednesday, Federation Day. Thursday, Piney Grove. Friday, Lake Farm. Curb market the usual time, Saturday morning, 8:30.

Let's make our curb market bigger and better each Saturday. Miss Lula Watson is still leading the sales.

Fine cooperation among the club members was shown last week in helping with the exhibits at the fair. All types of exhibits were sent in from all parts of the county. I thank each one for the splendid work.

Creswell Club and Chapel Hill Club are to be congratulated on their prize-winning booths. An excellent piece of work was done in both clubs. The members of these clubs showed a fine spirit of cooperation and worked hard.

The next event to look forward to is the fall federation of home demonstration clubs, Wednesday, October 30, is the day.

Mr. Anderson, principal of Plymouth High School, kindly consented to let us have the meeting in the Plymouth High School auditorium. Two p. m. is the hour. I urge all club members to come. The public is cordially invited.

A style show is to be held by the club women at the federation. Other interesting numbers are on the program.

The final judging of canned products for the Ball and Kerr jar contest is to be held the last of this week, as the best exhibit has to be sent to Raleigh by the 29th of October.

I urge the canning leaders to send the best exhibit in from their clubs as soon as possible.

Will Phelps, 61, Dies Near Roper

Roper.—Funeral services for Mr. Will Phelps, 61, who died Thursday, were held at Holly Neck Church on Friday afternoon, with the Rev. M. T. Ambrose officiating.

Pall-bearers were his nephews, William Phelps, Theodore Phelps, Nathan Phelps, and Mack Davenport. Interment took place in Holly Neck cemetery.

Surviving are his wife and one son, Luther Dean Phelps.

Marriage Licenses Issue dby Register

The following marriage licenses have been issued by Mrs. Mary Sawyer Clayton, register of deeds of Washington County: William Bagley and Wilmer Davenport, both of Creswell; James Kelly Armstrong, Elizabeth City, to Annie Mae Furlough, Roper; William Clifton, Creswell; to Mae Patrick, Creswell; Johnny J. Spruill, Roper, to Florence E. Lane, Williamston.

Methodist Services At Creswell Church

Sunday, October 27, at 11 o'clock, Rev. E. L. Stack will deliver his regular monthly sermon at the Creswell Methodist Episcopal church, South. This will be the last service before the annual conference and everyone is urged to attend.

Mackeys Young Man Joins Navy

Nathan J. Everett, of Mackeys, has been accepted by the New Bern Navy Recruiting office as an apprentice seaman. He was one of five accepted for this service with Uncle Sam. In November the Raleigh district office will enlist 60 apprentice seamen and 12 mess attendants and those who like can join through this office.

Majority Borrowers Said To Be Making Payments Regularly

HOLC Now Holds Mortgages on Nearly Million Homes in U. S.

As a result of the institution of several hundred foreclosures on the part of the Home Owners' Loan Corporation, questions have been raised as to the number of properties the corporation will have to take over over in the next year or two. It is impossible to make any intelligent estimate as to the number of homes we will have to sell or rent, but it is inevitable that some thousands of homes must be acquired by the corporation in the normal course of its business.

Acquisition of properties by the corporation cannot be prevented, in spite of the convenient terms on which these loans are made and the corporation's purpose to give worthy borrowers who are in temporary trouble every possible assistance. These borrowers will not be unduly harassed, nor asked to do the impossible, but, under the law, the corporation must collect the money due from borrowers who are able to pay.

The vast majority of borrowers are making their payments regularly and are in no danger of foreclosure, but the very fact that the corporation has become the largest real estate lending organization in the world means that it will have more properties to dispose of than any other single mortgage-lending institution. The corporation now holds mortgages on more than 885,000 urban homes. Soon it will have over a million. This is more than all the owner-occupied houses in our three largest cities, New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia combined.

Out of so large a number, some thousands are inevitably represented by people who prove irresponsible, and who do not respect their obligations. Even in normal times, the large lending institutions have to deal with thousands of pieces of property on which they are obliged to foreclose in the course of a year. The Home Owners' Loan Corporation cannot expect to escape similar experience.

The Corporation should encounter no serious problem in dealing with such homes as it is forced to take over from delinquent borrowers. In nearly every section of the country, real estate values are rising. There is already a growing demand for properties which carry the liberal type of mortgage made by the corporation. We are finding that the houses on which we have made loans command a more ready sale than those of corresponding value which do not have the same advantage of the long-term amortized mortgage.

The corporation does not propose to dump hastily on the market the homes which it is obliged to take over. It would be short-sighted policy to stimulate a new depression of real estate values by indulging in a forced sale of properties. If such a policy were followed, not only would the corporation suffer unnecessary losses, but it would likewise depress the value of other homes.

Every home owner who has a loan from the Home Owners' Loan Corporation has been helped out of a difficult situation which threatened him with foreclosure. Each loan made by the corporation is a long-term mortgage, bearing interest at a very low rate, enabling the family to come into debt-free home ownership through small payments, actually lower than rent in most cases and averaging less than \$24 each month.

The corporation in cases of continued genuine distress has permitted borrowers temporarily to postpone at least part of their payments. Foreclosure has occurred only in instances of abandonment, willful delinquency, legal complications or the death of the borrower, and not in any case of plain distress. Home owners who are clearly in difficulty are given every consideration.

On the other hand, such leniency is possible only where the borrower can prove his present inability to meet his payments, and that he is acting in good faith. Investigation of more than 5,000 requests by HOLC borrowers for postponement of their installments revealed that less than 1,100 of them were actually in difficulties. The other 3,900 were merely seeking to evade their obligations. Their demands were not granted, and most of them have paid up, rather than lose their homes.