

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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GILBERT DAVIS IS TO DEVOTE TIME TO CHURCH WORK

Will Retire From Business And Turn Full Attention To Ministerial Duties

Pressure of his ministerial duties has caused Gilbert Davis to announce that he will leave the business life of Plymouth, with which he has been identified for 12 or more years.

Mr. Davis came here from Belhaven as manager of Raif's Department Store, which was located in the building now occupied by the Nurney Funeral Home. Later he was a partner with E. H. Liverman. Then he became associated with Mr. Haliburt, of Belhaven, and later purchased the interest of Mr. Haliburt. Some years ago Mr. Davis became a clergyman and has divided his time since between business and his Christian churches. At the present time he is pastor of the Dardens, Jamesville and Fairfield churches in Martin County and Stokes Christian church, Pitt County. His ministry has been a success, as has been attested by his continual climb in this work.

Finding that he needs more time for pastoral calls and visits and to attend church functions he has decided to retire from business and devote his time to this work. In addition to his duties as a pastor he is a good evangelist, filling a number of calls last year and on each occasion was rewarded with telling results.

Mr. Davis will not sever his connection with the Town of Plymouth as mayor until his second term expires next May, at which time he will not be a candidate to succeed himself. However, it may be that he will seek a seat as a candidate from the second ward, from which precinct he was sent to the city council for six terms of two years each.

Farm Agent Started Lespedeza Campaign

Tom Broom, 69-year-old Union County farm agent, has changed the course of agriculture in North Carolina.

Back in 1915, when he discovered the soil-building value of lespedeza, he launched a movement that has spread into every county of the State, says F. H. Jeter, agricultural editor in a story entitled "Lespedeza Broom," appearing in the December issue of the Farm Journal, of Philadelphia.

Mr. Broom was the first man in this part of the country to observe that a growth of lespedeza, plowed under, increases the yield of succeeding crops, the story says.

Obtaining a peck of seed from Louisiana, he tried it out on his own farm. From that day to this he has been a "lespedeza man."

In Union County, where the slaty soil was not very productive, he urged farmers to grow lespedeza to improve the fertility of the soil.

As they saw what it would do for their land, their interest grew, and they told their neighbors about the new legume. In 1922, farmers of the county ordered \$10,000 worth of seed, paying \$5 a bushel.

Then they began to produce their own seed, with a surplus to sell. In peak years they have sold 300,000 pounds of seed. They sell about 1,000 tons of hay annually.

Sixty per cent of the farmers in the county now plant lespedeza, and more would grow it except for the tenant system, Broom said.

As a result, the slaty soil of the county is gradually becoming fertile. Corn yields have been raised from 12 or 13 bushels to 20 or 24 bushels to the acre. Wheat yields rose from 5 to an average of 18 bushels per acre.

Over the state and nation, the increasing use of lespedeza has been attributed more or less to the pioneer spirit of Tom "Lespedeza" Broom.

Gets 6 Tons Lespedeza Hay Per Acre in Person

W. B. Humphries, of Bethel Hill, Person County, reported to Farm Agent H. K. Sanders a yield of six tons of lespedeza hay per acre and a 100 per cent increase in corn yields following lespedeza.

\$20,000 Inheritance Money Distributed In Section Recently

Money Came From Estate Of Illinois Physician to Relatives in County

New Year's Eve brought happiness to a number of people in Washington County, as close to \$20,000 in inheritance money was distributed to several people here.

The money came from the estate of John H. Polk, of Champagne, Ill., who has a large number of relatives here who are directly or indirectly connected with the Latham family in this county. He has been dead for close to seven years. He had accumulated wealth as an eminent doctor.

For some reason the estate was tied up and the value of the property he owned had been so low that the executors would not sell until they could secure more returns from it. And the best part of it is that this first money is only half of what they expect to receive.

Among the beneficiaries are Mrs. Minnie Johnston, Mrs. P. W. Brinkley, Mrs. Clyde Owens, Emmet Blount, Mrs. D. G. Davis, and others. The amount to each was withheld.

Business Increase Causes Local Train To Be Late Daily

Has Been From 5 Minutes To 5 Hours Late Every Night for Two Years

What can be done about a train that comes into its terminal each night for the last two years anywhere from 5 minutes to 5 hours late?

New governmental agencies and increased business with a short-handed crew on some of the larger connecting lines has caused the Atlantic Coast Line train that operates daily between Plymouth and Tarboro to come in late every night.

The new government agencies have increased mail as well as ordering by mail. A reduction in express rates to almost those of freight within a 200-mile limit has added greatly to this increase in parcels to be handled. This causes most of the main line trains to run behind, thus dragging out a long day's work for the crew here.

Overtime starts about 7 o'clock and most of the time the train pulls in just in time to prevent any overtime for the crew.

T. C. Burgess To Go Back Into Business

Tom C. Burgess, well known former mercantile man in Plymouth, will reenter business here on about the first of March in the building on Water Street now occupied by Gilbert Davis.

He will specialize in shoes for men, women and children, with its kindred lines, and will add a stock of haberdashery, selling the latest in men's wearing apparel. Mr. Burgess is well known, having been in business here before. He came here from Rocky Mount, where he had been in the dry goods business.

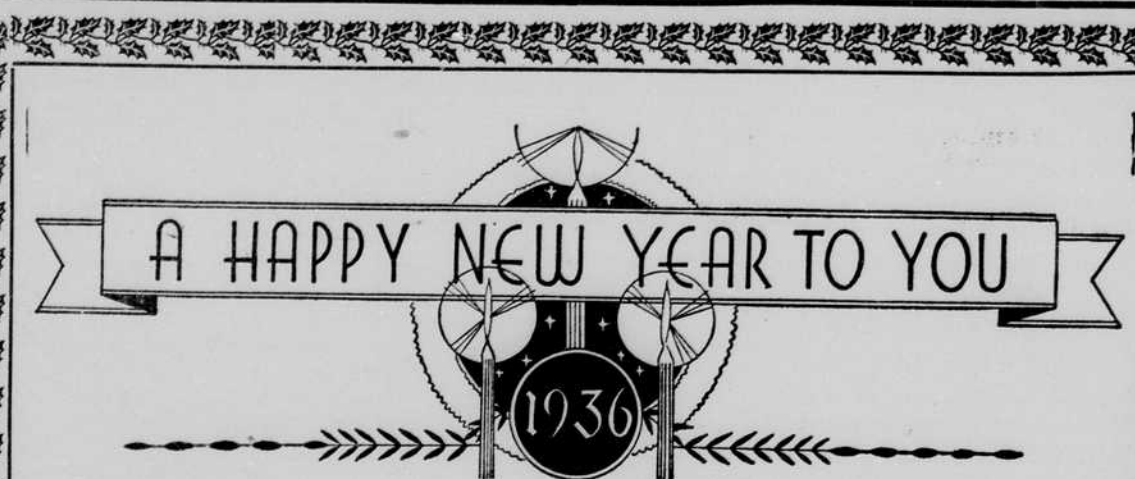
Mr. Burgess, though not politically inclined, is a member of the Plymouth City Council at present. He hopes to be in a position to open his store at least 30 days before Easter.

Program of Services For Zion's Chapel

Sunday school at 10 a. m.
Preaching service at 11 a. m.
Sunday morning is "Dollar Day." Each member is supposed to bring a dollar which is to be pinned on a line across the church. Sunday evening services are at 7 o'clock.

Oil Vapor Is Kept in Chevrolet Crankcases

The new Chevrolets are fitted with an extra provision to maintain oil economy. It is a baffle plate inside the crankcase, which prevents oil from being drawn out of the ventilating breather, but permits lighter vapors and fumes to escape.



(Courtesy of Miss Effie Waldo, Hamilton, N. C.)

Health enough to make work a pleasure;
Wealth enough to support your needs;
Strength enough to battle with difficulties and overcome them;
Grace enough to confess your sins and forsake them;
Patience enough to toil until some good is accomplished;
Charity enough to see good in your neighbor;
Cheerfulness that shall make others glad;
Love that shall move you to be useful and helpful;
Faith that shall make real the things of God;
And hope that shall remove all anxious fears concerning the future.

THE ROANOKE BEACON

Mrs. J. Bryant Jordan Is Winner of First Prize Offered by Merchants of Plymouth

Dame Luck did very well by Mrs. J. Bryant Jordan, an employee in the WPA sewing room in Plymouth, when \$525 was handed to her by the good merchants of this good town—all because she did her trading in Plymouth.

She was not at the drawing when the number was chosen, but when news reached her of the number of the lucky ticket she ran to the front of the market waving her ticket and was presented with \$525. It was a lot of money for her at one time.

The second prize of \$100 was handed over to J. T. Askew, of Route 1, Plymouth, well-known and well-liked farmer of this

section. The third prize of \$50 went to W. C. Chesson, local postman.

Four other prizes of \$5 each were presented to Mrs. Hildred Swain, Plymouth; W. B. Tetterton, Route 1, Plymouth; Charlie Hines, colored, Westover; and Frank Holley, also of Westover.

Despite the cold snowy weather, upwards of 3,000 people were in town for the drawing of the tickets. The ticket stubs were too many for a barrel, so they were sewn up in a large sheet. They were stirred good six times and then a hole was cut in the sheet at each draw-

ing and the 7-year-old daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Roy Respass, of Creswell, took out one ticket stub at the time. The little girl was given \$10 for her part in the drawing.

The drawing ended a campaign by the merchants that has been waged all through the fall season since September to increase business here. Thousands of dollars were brought into Plymouth during the campaign. The merchants here had one of their best after-Christmas Saturdays they have had in years. People flocked in from every quarter to get in on the draw-

Tells How to Avoid Damage by Termites

The easiest and most effective time to protect a house against termites is during the early stages of its construction.

The problem, said Dr. B. B. Fulton, research entomologist at State College, is to keep the termites from reaching the wooden parts of the house.

These insects commonly live underground, but will build mud runways up the masonry walls of a house to reach the woodwork.

The greater the distance from the soil level to the woodwork, the less chance of termite infestation, Dr. Fulton said. And a house with a full basement is less likely to be bothered than one without a basement or with only a partial basement.

Any part of the building which is not directly over a basement should be protected by removing the soil to give a clearance of three or four feet. Stumps and roots in the ground underneath a house should be dug out.

Dr. Fulton recommended the use of termite shields for frame houses, particularly those without basements. A shield is a strip of non-corrosive metal placed between the foundations and the sills.

Well laid Portland cement gives a good protection, he added, but only so long as there are no cracks through which the termites may enter.

A common source of trouble is in terraces or porches with a concrete floor laid over an earth fill, and on a level with the floor of the house. Termites frequently find cracks through which they can reach the woodwork.

Building the terraces one step below the floor level reduces the likelihood of termite damage.

SNOW AND SLUSH

Snow and slush continues to cover the shaded ground in spots near buildings, while a suffering populace plows thru the ice-covered streets cautiously less the slipper ice cause their downfall.

Mrs. George W. Hardison said this was the first White Christmas in her lifetime, while Mr. C. V. W. Ausbon remembers that only three times during his long life has the Roanoke River been frozen over, as it was Wednesday. Some say the lingering snow is awaiting more.

Traffic has been paralyzed in the rural sections. Rural letter carriers have missed their routes on one or more days.

Examinations for Civil Service Jobs

The United States Civil Service Commission has announced open competitive examinations as follows: Junior graduate nurse, \$1,620 a year.

Assistant to technician (forestry), \$1,620 a year.

Assistant geophysicist, \$2,600 a year.

Accountant and auditor, assistant accountant and auditor, senior accounting and auditing assistant, \$2,000 to \$3,200 a year, Bureau of Motor Carriers, Interstate Commerce Commission.

Certain specified education and experience are required in connection with these examinations.

Full information may be obtained from the Secretary of the United States Civil Service Board of Examiners at the post office or customhouse in any city which has a post office of the first or second class, or from the United States Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C.

Services at Local Christian Church

Every person in Plymouth should be found in church on the first Sunday in the year. Nothing could add to the betterment of the community more than that which would be added if every member of the churches in Plymouth would attend "the church services each Sunday during 1936. If you desire to add to Plymouth's betterment start the New Year off right by attending all services at your church. A cordial welcome awaits you at the Christian church. Service begins at 9:45 a. m. with the Bible school, in charge of Supt. J. W. Darden. The worship hour begins at 11 a. m., with the pastor using as his subject, "The Two Gates." 6:30 p. m., the Christian Endeavor will convene and at 7:30 p. m., the evening service will begin. Mr. Taylor will use as the subject, "The Greatest Thing in the World."—N. A. Taylor, Pastor.

Number Important Events Scheduled for Next Monday

A number of important events will take place in Washington County January 6.

Superior court will open for a two weeks term of civil and criminal cases. The first three days of the first week is to be used for the disposition of criminal cases, while the other three days and all of the next week will be devoted to civil cases. Judge W. C. Harris, of Raleigh, will preside.

Several thousand school children will spend their way back to school next Monday. For two weeks the youngsters have celebrated Christmas but now it is time to start work again. This has been one of the

Rumors of Death of A. L. Alexander in Indiana Unfounded

Body of Man Found Frozen To Death Not That of Former Postmaster

Rumors current here that the lifeless body of A. L. Alexander, formerly of this place, who deserted his family several weeks ago, was found in Indianapolis, Ind., have been found by Sheriff J. K. Reid to be untrue.

It was said that they body was something like that of Mr. Alexander and was found frozen with three others. Jess Bateman, mechanic for Satterthwaite Chevrolet Company, reported radio broadcasts for identifications and added that the name Alexander was connected in some way.

However, Sheriff Reid telephoned the police of the Indiana city, giving identifying marks and other information in supplement to communication. The officer has been informed that it had been conclusively found that the body of the unknown man was not that of the Alexander who once lived here.

B. A. Sumner, local traveling salesman, reports that he is of the opinion that he saw Mr. Alexander in a Florida town shortly after he left here, but that when he crossed the street to speak to him the person disappeared into a fashionable hotel.

20 LICENSES TO MARRY ISSUED IN PAST MONTH

Half of Number Is Secured Within Few Days of Christmas

An even 20 couples were issued license to marry in Washington County by Mrs. Mary O. Sawyer, register of deeds, during the month of December, with half of them being secured during the three days prior and two days following Christmas:

White
Preston Haire, Creswell, to Lillie Jane Bateman, Creswell; Henry R. Davenport, Plymouth, to Elsie Gertrude Phelps, Creswell; Roy F. Alexander, Roper, to Merle Norman, of Creswell; Wade H. Collins, Roper, to Ruby Phelps, Roper; Jesse Manning, Plymouth, to Ruby Williams, Plymouth; Floyd Asby, Plymouth, to Blanche Phelps, Plymouth; Edgar Barber, Roper, to Esther Spruill, of Roper; Robert B. Brown, jr., Williamston, to Betty Ruth Butler, of Stokes; W. Ross Chesson, Roper, to Mabel Furlough, Roper; Adrian Barnes, Roper, to Mattie Estelle Biggs, Roper; Wilson G. Bowen, of Plymouth, to Ruby Estelle Ayers, Plymouth; Delbert Patrick, Creswell, to Connie Stillman, Roper; William Phelps, Roper, to Louise Chesson, Roper; Gilbert Stillman, Roper, to Beulah Patrick, Roper.

Colored
Lawrence McNair, Plymouth, to Lillie M. Wynn, Plymouth; Willie Woods, Roper, to Louise Norman, of Roper; Simpson Smith, Creswell, to Dazzie Webb, Creswell; Thomas Cradle, Roper, to Lula Wetler, of Roper; Theodora Boston, Jamesville, to Senia Mae James, Jamesville; Johnnie Palin, Creswell, to Myrtle Baum, Creswell.

Thin Out Pines To Speed Tree Growth

Thinning out an overcrowded stand of pine trees will pay big dividends in the long run.

Removing the dead, crippled, and overcrowded trees leaves the potential timber to develop properly in the shortest possible time.

Rufus H. Page, jr., assistant extension forester at State College, has pointed out a stand of pine on the farm of K. C. Woodard in Johnston County as a good example of what thinning will do for a timber tract.

The trees in Woodard's stand are of approximately the same age. Five years ago he thinned one-third of his stand. Two years ago he thinned another third, leaving the remaining third untouched.

In the area first thinned are many trees 10 inches in diameter at breast height, Page said. In the second area are only a few trees which will measure that size.

In the untouched part of the timber stand, none of the trees have attained a diameter of 10 inches at breast height, and many of them are less than half the average diameter of the trees in the two stands which have been thinned.

The inferior trees removed from the stand in the thinning process were cut into cordwood which was worth far more than the cost of the work, Page said.

And the better trees were left to grow into valuable timber which will bring Woodard a good profit in a few years.

"If you don't think that thinning pays," Page remarked, "just ask any of the Johnston County farmers who have seen Woodard's pines."

Helps in Coaching Eastern Grid Team

Hoot Gibson, of Roper, son of Dr. and Mrs. W. T. Gibson, was an assistant coach of the Eastern Carolina high schools football squad that met a group from the west in the first Tobacco Bowl football game, played in Winston-Salem on New Year's Day.

Hoot, who had played on the local baseball team as well as in high school athletics, left home on the day after Christmas for Greenville to assist in training the eastern stars for the event. They worked out on the East Carolina Teachers' College gridiron. Gibson is a student at the Greenville college.

Property Value of North State Schools Runs Into Millions

Amount Estimated at \$107,080,000; Many Gains in Past 20 Years

Raleigh.—The value of public school property in North Carolina in 1933-34 was \$107,080,000, as compared with only \$9,078,703.27 in 1913-14, and the expenditure for current expenses were \$18,296,363.78, as compared with \$4,157,295.17 20 years before, it was shown recently.

Clyde A. Erwin, superintendent of public instruction, released the statistics in a summary of educational progress of the state, which, he said, was prepared primarily to give information to B. Y. P. U. members, as it seems a state-wide study of education is being made by that organization.

Noted was the fact that the current expense item of 1933-34 of \$18,296,363.78 was only around three-quarters of a million dollars less than the \$19,978,656.87 spent in 1923-24. This was explained by decreases in capital outlay of more than nine millions.

The number of log schoolhouses decreased from 165 in 1923-24 to 4 in 1933-34; the number of one-teacher schools dropped from 3,698 to 533; the number of teachers employed jumped from 13,255 to 23,345; the average length of term rose from 122 days to 159.3 days and the school enrollment increased from 599,647 to 895,525.

The state appropriation for schools in 1913-14 was \$278,823.08. In 1923-24 it was \$1,678,759, and in 1933-34 it was \$16,000,000, with the state supporting a basic eight months term.

The average monthly salaries of teachers was \$39.81 in 1913-14, \$99.93 in 1923-24 and \$72.36 in 1933-34.