

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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MAKING SURVEY OF BLIND PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTY

Plans Going Forward To Render Assistance To County's Blind

A survey of the blind in Washington County has been started by William Lewis, of Raleigh, field representative of the North Carolina Commission for the Blind, who was here last week distributing cards at the schools and elsewhere, asking parents to report those who are blind or who have defective eye-sight in their community.

This registration system for the blind is for the purpose of extending such assistance as is within the power of the commission to those who need and desire it. The results of the survey will be used in planning the commission's program in the prevention of blindness and of training the blind for useful employment.

Some of the cards have been distributed through the schools of both races and others will be distributed through the Virginia Electric and Power Company when they send out their monthly statements. Those who receive them from the school are asked to send them back to the school and those who receive the cards from the power company are asked to return them to the VEPCO, either to Mr. H. L. Barnhill here or to the district office in Williamston.

The State Commission classifies as "blind" any one who is unable to read ordinary newsprint even with the aid of glasses. Those who have "seriously defective sight" may still be able to read and to carry on their normal activities in a limited way. Doubtless, some of those in the last mentioned group, only need proper glasses or operations for some such things as cataract to restore useful vision.

Colored Woman Passes Suddenly

Janie Moore, middle-aged colored woman of Plymouth, died in an automobile on the Plymouth-Williamston highway Sunday afternoon. She was returning from Washington, where she had been on a visit to her husband, who is working in the Beaufort County town.

She was riding in the car with Rev. Joe Watson, of Plymouth. The minister reported that he heard her say as they rode along that she was "going to die, that a pain in her side was killing her." He drove faster to arrive in Plymouth as quickly as possible.

Before reaching town he heard her making unusual nasal noises and thought that she had dropped off to sleep. But when he shook her he found that she was dead. Sheriff J. K. Reid viewed the body and agreed that there was no evidence of foul play.

Plymouth - Roper Split Doubleheader

The Plymouth girls' basketball team defeated the Roper cagers, 30 to 14, while the Roper boys came to win, 21 to 15, last Thursday night. The boys' line-up was: Roper, Everett, Chesson, Watson, Bray and Peacock; Plymouth, Mayo, Bowen, Asby, Lucas and Basnight. Mayo was the high scorer for Plymouth, with 7 points, and Chesson, for Roper, with 17 points.

Girls' lineup: Roper, Gibson, Furlough, Leary, C. Spruill, R. Spruill, Ainsley; substitutes, Gibson and E. Knowles. Plymouth, names not reported.

Aged Creswell Man Died Last Thursday

Creswell.—Funeral services were held last Wednesday afternoon for Joe Van Horne, 82, who died last Tuesday morning after a lingering illness. Rev. O. L. Easter officiated, assisted by Rev. J. W. Hardy. Services were held at his Lake Phelps home. Interment took place in a family burying ground.

Farm Notes

By W. V. HAYS, County Agent

The men in charge of our various crop control programs were called to Memphis last week to have explained to them the working of the new farm program. By the time this is read the county agents of the state will probably have been called to Raleigh for the purpose of having this program explained to them in a detailed way so that they will be able, in turn, to give this program to the farmers in the various counties. The newspapers have been carrying a certain amount of information relative to these programs, and I have also received a copy of the Farm Act, but until the various administrative rulings and interpretations are put upon these phrases it is very hard to say what the program will be like.

We have been instructed to advise farmers to plant acreages similar to those planted last year and the previous year and to assure them that they will receive more money for their crops, besides the benefit payments which will be paid cooperating farmers are very attractive. Meetings will be held at Cherry, Roper and Plymouth for the purpose of explaining the program in detail to the various committees.

It will be hard to say how much damage is being done in Washington County by rats and mice. The damage which they do to feed, seed and grains as well as harness and other things on the farm would amount to several thousand dollars per year. Some statistician with the biological bureau has estimated that in some counties the amount of rodent damage in dollars done to the farmers will exceed the number of dollars paid by these farmers in taxes.

Rats should be poisoned or destroyed before warm weather comes or while they are congregated around barns, graneries, hay stacks, etc. When the weather turns warm these rodents scatter all over the farm. The most effective way to kill rats is by poisoning. One type of poison for a rat is known as red squill, which is poisonous only to rats. It is not harmful or deadly if eaten by livestock, cats or dogs. To be most effective bait should be put out in a whole community at one time, as rats are great travelers, as is indicated by tracks noticed in the snow. A good method to use is that of putting out bait in the form of ground fresh fish, or beef scraps scattered liberally over the premises about three days previous to putting out the poison bait. Scatter poison bait plentifully in corners, runways, dark places and around feeding places and almost any place where the rats use. A rat is a very wise animal and will not take bait placed on bits of paper dishes nor boards. He will not eat off a silver platter. He needs to think the bait was dropped unintentionally.

Information on procuring ready mixed bait can be had at the county office for the asking.

Farmers interested in acidity tests for soil and fertilizer recommendations may get same by the asking at the county office. Soil samples taken should not be handled by the hand. The soil should be fairly dry and for best results samples should be taken from several places over the field and mixed well together. Bring to the office about one tea-cup full of this mixed soil. Kick off about one or two inches of top soil before taking the sample.

It is not yet too late to set a few fruit trees. In setting fruit trees it is well to remember a few things to be successful. Use soil or set in soil suited to the type of tree planted. Cut off long and bruised roots and branches. Where very young trees are set head fairly low. In this way branches can be grown so as to balance and shape the young tree. Add a few shovels of rich soil and press firmly around the roots. Set trees only an inch or so lower than they were when removed.

Poultry prices are a little better than when the car was in Plymouth on February 22nd. We will have another car here about the same time during the month of March and will pick up and pay for poultry at Columbia and Creswell on the same date.

Orders should be put in for baby chicks now for heavy breeds and about the first of April for leghorns, if these chicks are to be grown out for early fall and winter layers. Almost any kind of dry warm house can be rigged up for a brooder house if ventilation and sunshine can be used. The brick brooder is the best type of equipment for brooding ever discovered.

HYMN WRITTEN BY PASTOR HERE TO BE FEATURED

"The Morning Star" To Be Presented at Methodist Church Sunday

A feature of the services at the Methodist church here Sunday will be the initial presentation in Plymouth of the hymn written by Rev. C. T. Thrift, pastor, entitled "The Morning Star." The music was composed by Dr. Alfred Woolen, a leading composer.

The minister way away on a visit to relatives with his wife about a year ago when he felt prompted to undertake the task of writing this song. He retired from the family to his room after breakfast one morning and an hour later emerged with the composition that has been pronounced a success by critics.

Mr. Thrift wondered why Alfred Lord Tennyson never wrote a poem on "The Morning Star" as he did write one on "The Evening Star." He realized the reason when he learned that Tennyson was not an early riser. Mr. Thrift has written other poems as well.

Dr. Woolen wrote Mr. Thrift that the lyrics on this song were of the best for which he had ever written music. It was written in hymn style, although he has been urged to have it done in the style of an anthem and as a solo. It has been the intention of the choir to present this number for some time, but illness of the singer has prevented it. The church folk are eager to hear this composition, and Mr. Thrift promises that unless something prevents this song will be presented Sunday.

Not only has Mr. Thrift written songs and poems but he has written one pamphlet on "Why John the Baptist Sprinkled the Multitudes," which reached a circulation of 50,000, and recently he has published a book of 330 pages, entitled "The Romance of the Gospel." He has also been the author of several interesting items for publication.

Local Hurler Is Holding Out for Increased Salary

Plymouth has its own baseball holdout for the season in the person of Clyde (Lefty) Humphries, who refused the first contract sent him by Manager Jimmy Wilson from the training quarters at Winter Haven, Fla., of the Philadelphia National League baseball club.

Manager Wilson advised Humphries that he was the only holdout on the club roster. This never fazed Humphries, who wants a contract calling for over \$500 a month. Humphries played with Hazleton, Pa., of the New York-Pennsylvania League, last season. This club is owned by the Phillies.

Manager Wilson is much impressed with the ability of Harold Kelleher, who last year was a right handed hurler on the same club with Humphries. Those who have seen the two at work agree that Humphries is much better than Kelleher.

Humphries is of the opinion that he will not make the major league club and knows that he will be "fanned out" to some club. He knows that his salary will be decreased in line with the pitchers on the club with which he plays, and he wants as much on a contract as he can get. It will look good to the club officials where he lands.

Hurlers in the league in which Humphries pitched last year were paid from \$200 to \$400 monthly for the five-months working season. He wants his salary with the big club to be at least in the average.

Farm Teachers in Meeting Tuesday

A meeting of the vocational agriculture teachers of the Tri-County Association assembled in Roper Tuesday of this week. Each had a part on the short program, which also was used as a conference between them.

Subjects for short talks by each follow: R. C. Jordan, Jamesville, "Preparing Students for Livestock Judging"; A. H. Tucker, Creswell, "Cotton Growing Contest for Day and Evening Students"; C. H. Floyd, Roper, "Public Speaking"; A. H. Guy, Columbia, "Preparing Students for chapter Contests"; J. O. Cooper, Plymouth, "3 To 1 Corn Contest."

FOR GOVERNOR



A. H. Graham, candidate for governor, went on record this week as favoring road refunds, radio patrol system and a special session of the North Carolina General Assembly.

Local and Columbia Women's Clubs Will Stage Banquet Here

District Officials of State Federation Will Make Addresses

Mrs. J. Guy Penny, of Garner, chairman of the Junior Woman's Club division, and Mrs. W. Beasley, of Coleraine, vice president of the fifteenth district of the North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs will be special guests and speakers at a banquet here next Tuesday night.

The Junior Woman's Club of Columbia will join the Plymouth Junior Woman's Club in staging the banquet which have a color scheme appropriate to St. Patrick's Day. Miss Miriam Ausbon, of Plymouth, and some talent from Columbia will provide the music.

Miss Alma Sanderson, president of the Plymouth Club, will preside. She asks all members for last year to join in this banquet and to notify her by Monday of next week if they are intending to attend.

Officers of the local club are Miss Alma Sanderson, president; Miss Elizabeth Davidson, vice president; recordian gsecretary, Miss Neva Liverman; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Hubert Allen; Mrs. Frank Spruill, treasurer; Mrs. H. A. Liverman, sponsor.

Piano Recital Here Next Wednesday

Mrs. Laura S. Johnston will present her junior pupils in a piano recital at the Plymouth High School auditorium at 8 p. m. Wednesday evening, March 18. The program will include old English folk and cradle songs, a bubble chorus, several piano trios, duets, solos, and duos.

The following students will be on the program: Wilford Whitley, Mary Elizabeth Bray, Katherine Midget, James Harold Ward, Helen Darden, Frances Spruill, Jean Modlin, Mary C. Cahoon, Martha D. McGowan, Vivian Sitterson, Martha Manning, Fannie Lou Winslow, Helen Carr, Meredith Johnson, Daryl Clayton, Zeno Lyon, and Gibbie Davis.

Certificates of award will be presented to the pupils who have completed their respective courses during the first semester.

Norman Speaks at Club Meet Friday

"The History of Raleigh" was the subject of a speech delivered to the Senior Woman's Club last Friday afternoon by Zeb Vance Norman, at which meeting the following served as hostesses, Mrs. J. K. Reid, Mrs. Jack Peele, Mrs. Leon Rose, and Miss Ethel Perry. Congealed salad and cocoa were served.

New officers elected follow: Mrs. T. L. Bray, president; Mrs. P. W. Brinkley, vice president; Mrs. B. G. Campbell, secretary; Mrs. W. A. Davidson, treasurer; Mrs. J. K. Reid, corresponding secretary.

Evening Service at Episcopal Church

Evening services will be held at the Grace Episcopal church Sunday, March 15, with Rev. Sidney Matthews, of Washington, rector of the church, bringing the sermon. All members are urged to attend as the spring season, which is an important church season, is beginning.

THEATRE GUILD PROJECT TO GET UNDERWAY SOON

WPA Grant Makes Possible Beginning New Work Here

Miss Mary Dirnberger, of Raleigh state supervisor of Federal Theatre Projects under the WPA, was in Plymouth this week making arrangements for the beginning of a theatre guild project here, as \$434.50 has been allotted to this place for this work.

Miss Ada Weede will be the local director of the work. Delbert Allen will be in charge of the clerical work, while Jesse McNair will be employed as the mechanic to prepare the scenery and stage and do such extra work.

The organization would appreciate a home of their own. However, unless this is done, they will have to make out with temporary quarters. No salaries will be allowed for the performers, as the project is given here for its recreational and educational value.

It is not to be a money-making affair. No admission to the plays will be charged. However, a receptacle will be placed at the entrance and those who wish may contribute and the money will be used to purchase equipment.

The immediate work of the organization will be started with study groups. This will lead to one-act presentations. Later it is hoped to work the plan into a more elaborate show that will be presented to as large an audience as will turn out to see the play.

Those interested in these Little Theatre presentations and who wish an opportunity to study this work should get in touch with Miss Weede or Mrs. W. C. Brewer. Miss Weede went to a youth conference during last summer and showed an aptitude for this work, which is the reason she has been chosen for this work here.

Westover Farmer Dies Last Tuesday

Funeral services were to be held Wednesday afternoon for George Washington Ayers, 75, well-known and well-liked farmer of the Westover section of Washington County, who died Tuesday after a short illness. Interment was to take place in a near-by cemetery.

Surviving Mr. Ayers is a widow and the following children: Tom Ayers, Winston-Salem; Mrs. Carrie Ayers Baldwin, Enfield; Abe Ayers, Raleigh; Vance Ayers, Asheville; Mrs. L. E. Woodley and Robert Ayers, of near Plymouth.

Mr. Ayers had been sick for two weeks. Pneumonia was said to have been the cause of his death. Although he never held public office Mr. Ayers was well known in this county, and a large crowd attended the last rites for him.

No Fishing From April 1 To May 10

It shall be unlawful to fish or take game fish by any means whatsoever in "inland fishing waters" of North Carolina from April 1 to May 10 of each year, provided that shad and herring may be taken with skim or gill net on Friday and Saturday of each week from January 1 to May 1 of each year in "inland fishing waters."

This is a ruling of the board meeting of January 22 and is the instructions received here by Game Warden Miller Warren.

Agriculture Pupils Will Meet Friday

About 250 students from vocational agriculture classes in schools in Martin, Washington and Tyrrell counties will meet at Jamesville Friday morning at 10 o'clock, March 13, for their quarterly convales. Students will be present from Plymouth, Roper, Creswell, Columbia and Jamesville.

25 New Books Are Added to Library

About 25 new books have been added to the Washington County Library in the basement of the court house. They range anywhere from boys' and girls' reading material to entertaining fiction for adults. Others may be added later. Those who enjoy reading are urged to visit the library.

SCHOOLS REOPEN

Public schools opened in Washington County Monday a week ago. It was reported that about 75 per cent of the children attended the opening day of the Plymouth school. And that this last Monday 90 per cent were in school. Most of those out were absent on account of sickness.

It was predicted that during the good weather the farmers would be so far behind with their farm work that many would keep their children at home, but L. W. Anderson, principal of the Plymouth schools, did not think this was the case. Tuesday's rain may break the roads up to such an extent that traffic will be delayed and this may result in decreased attendance.

H. C. Hooker Dies Suddenly Sunday In His Store Here

Well-Known Local Merchant Succumbs To Heart Attack

Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon for Herbert Church Hooker, 63, who died early Sunday morning at his store on the end of Main Street in Plymouth. Mr. Hooker had been sleeping in a shed room at the rear of the store for some time as a protection to the store and also to eliminate the necessity of traversing the long distance to his home.

He was seized with an illness while alone. However, he attracted the attention of a negro named Frank Skinner and his family was notified. Dr. C. McGowan was present when he expired of heart trouble. He was a carpenter in this section for years before entering the mercantile business in later life.

Rev. N. A. Taylor, pastor of the Christian church, of which Mr. Hooker was a member, officiated, as assisted by Rev. R. H. Lucas, of the Baptist church, and Rev. Gilbert Davis, of the Christian church. Interment took place in the Windley cemetery.

Surviving is a widow and the following children: Margaret, Mary and Cecil Hooker and Mrs. Leon Ange, of Plymouth; Mrs. Wallace L. Guilford, of Chocowinity; Mrs. N. M. Ferguson, Richmond; Mrs. L. C. Thompson, Plymouth; and a brother, Herman Hooker, of Plymouth.

Home and Club News

By Mary Frances Misenheimer

Schedule for Next Week

Monday, County Bridge. Tuesday, Pleasant Grove. Wednesday, Swain. Thursday, Creswell. Friday, Alba. Saturday, curb market, 8:30. Mrs. Joe Snell, of Cool Springs Club, led the sales Saturday. Mrs. W. C. Moore, of the same club, was second.

In Hoke Club better gardens and yards are to be had this year. Miss Lula Watson, yard leader, is having her house underpinned. That is the first step in beautifying the yard.

Mrs. Joe Browning, garden leader has started her garden. Mrs. Browning will have an A grade garden.

We welcome the two new members in Roper Club this month, Mrs. W. A. Blount and Mrs. R. L. Stillman.

Every member in Chapel Hill Club is working to make the club bigger and better. Gardens are being planted, yards improved, and every phase of club work is being carried on in a splendid way.

Six new members were added at the March meeting, Misses Oline Spruill and Helen Phelps, Mesdames John West, Wesley Hardison, Ethel Sitterson, and Ellen Tarkenton.

Mrs. L. S. Brey and Mrs. Hopkins brought enough shrubs for the plant exchange to give each member one.

The Beech Grove club met with Mrs. L. V. Chesson in Roper Friday. Mrs. Chesson has certainly done a lot of work on her furniture. She reupholstered her living room furniture, making it look like new.

Be on time at the Food Leaders' School March 17, 10:15. Bring note book and pencil.

FIREMEN'S SHOW ON MARCH 20th IS TO BE BIG EVENT

Several Cash Prizes To Be Awarded Winners in Amateur Contest

Here a week in advance plans have been almost completed for the amateur show which is to be presented at the Plymouth High School auditorium at 8 o'clock in the evening on Friday, March 20, under the auspices of the Plymouth Volunteer Fire Department.

Billy Burke, one of the originators and a partner in the Amos 'n' Andy duet for a time, will be the master of ceremonies. And he is plenty good as an entertainer, as he has been presented in novelties at dances and other amusements in Plymouth from time to time.

Burke quit the Amos and Andy group before they became famous. Deafness caused him to lose out. He is now a resident of Richmond and travels for an electric company and Plymouth is on his route. "Only difference between them and me is that I sell fuses and they make \$80,000 a year," said Burke.

With Burke will be Tommy Baker, of Nashville, juvenile dancing marvel, who will be on the Major Bowes program Sunday night. He is a dancer. He performed at the President's Ball in Raleigh and appeared in cabaret programs in Richmond. He will not be a contestant for a prize but will be an added attraction.

Another feature will be the bits of Howard Vail, Washington County's contribution to the stage. He will do several novelty acts. He was once with the Carolina Play-makers, in addition to experience that he secured from years in stock companies and other such work. He is near Plymouth with his parents.

Then there will be local amateurs from communities as far west as Jamesville and as far east as Columbia, and from Pantego to the Roanoke River in the other directions. There will be singing, dancing, recitations, impersonations, imitations, and music a plenty. All white citizens are eligible.

The contest will be arranged in groups from 1 to 6 years, 6 to 12, 12 to 18, and 18 to 90+. The winner in each group will receive \$5 each. A total of \$20 in cash prizes is being offered. Talent from all over this section is being invited and urged to participate. The audience will name their winner by applause. There is nothing fixed. Professionals will not be entered in the contest. Every performer has an opportunity to win.

Also \$15 will be given to the holder of the lucky admission ticket. Each ticket will be numbered with a stub. The one holding the corresponding number to the first stub drawn will receive \$5 and this draws down to the fifth number drawn, which will receive \$1. The winners must be present to win the prizes.

Another contest is also announced whereby anyone making a purchase from the merchants advertising with the firemen on their double-page spread herein is eligible to compete for the \$10 in prizes given for grouping the sentences from the ads. Read the details on pages two and five.

There are no reserved seats. Mr. Burke, Mr. Vail and any other professionals or amateurs not from this section who will appear in the show will not compete for the prize money. The Roper public address system will be used.

Amateurs who wish to be in the show may either file with the principals of their schools or may write direct to H. B. Spencer, secretary of the Plymouth Volunteer Fire Department, Plymouth, N. C. Tickets will be sold in advance on the streets, as well as at the box office on the night of the show.

J. J. Finnegan Dies At Skinnersville

Skinnersville.—Mr. John Joseph Finnegan, 63, husband of Mrs. Isabel C. Finnegan, and son of the late James J. and Elizabeth Finnegan, died here Sunday night at 10:17 o'clock.

Mr. Finnegan, a native of Richmond, had lived in Norfolk for 40 years and recently had been living here. Besides his wife he is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Purnell Hall Guard and Miss Ann Linn Finnegan; and two grandchildren, all of Norfolk; three sisters, Mrs. W. E. Koster, Mrs. James G. Walker, and Mrs. K. C. Fox, of Richmond; and two brothers, W. B. Finnegan, of Richmond; and Frank G. Finnegan, of Norfolk.

The body was carried to Norfolk for the funeral and interment.