

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

THE ROANOKE BEACON

Advertisers will find Beacon and News columns a latch-key to 1,100 Washington County homes.

AND WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS

VOLUME XLVIII—NUMBER 35

Plymouth, Washington County, North Carolina, Friday, August 27, 1937

ESTABLISHED 1889

MERCHANTS PLAN FALL CAMPAIGNS TO BOOST SALES

Will Try To Make New Association 100 Per Cent; May Give Prizes

The Plymouth Merchants Association, reorganized about a month ago, is going ahead with plans for two campaigns to be conducted this fall. The first is a campaign for new members, which it is hoped will result in every merchant of Plymouth who has not already joined doing so within the next few months. The second is a sales campaign to be conducted along the lines of the one a year ago, when tickets were given every shopper who purchased goods amounting to \$1 or more, and prizes distributed to holders of the lucky tickets. The present Merchants' Association was formed as the result of a reorganization of what had been the Business Men's Association. It now includes 18 paid-up members, and meets regularly twice each month, on Thursday nights. L. S. Thompson is president of the association and T. C. Burgess is its secretary. In addition there are several committees.

Tobacco Barns Burn at Heavy Loss To Farmers

Three Fires During Past Week Cause Estimated \$2,000 Loss in County

Washington County farmers suffered losses estimated at well over \$2,000 during the past week as tobacco barns caught fire and burned, destroying more than 2,500 sticks of tobacco. Probably the largest individual loss was that suffered by W. H. Gurkin, whose barn was on route 97 about two miles from Plymouth. He lost 829 sticks, and the barn itself cost \$250 to build a year ago. It was of tongue-and-groove stock and covered with paper. "I cannot figure out what caused that fire," Mr. Gurkin said. "It is the first time I have lost a barn in 40 years, and I checked the heat three minutes before it caught fire. The temperature then was only 146 degrees. I had hardly turned my back when there was a burst and a roar, and the whole building was ablaze. It burned up on the inside so hot that it melted the iron roof in many places." Firemen from Plymouth sprayed water on another tobacco barn about 20 feet away, also owned by Mr. Gurkin, in order to prevent it from burning, though as it was mostly of fireproof tile construction, there was little that could have burned. Sunday night a barn owned by J. C. Tarkenton, a short distance from Albemarle Beach, burned with a loss estimated at close to \$1,000. It had more than 1,000 sticks of tobacco in it at the time. This belonged to three tenants, Jesse H. Moore, H. W. Phelps and John Rawls. The barn was heated by an oil burner, valued at more than \$100, and it is thought that this may have caused the fire. A few days before T. G. Moore lost a barn on the road to the beach from Plymouth. There are said to have been 400 sticks of tobacco in it at the time, owned by William Bell, Mark Pittman, and G. B. Blount.

Woman Believes Treasure Hidden Under Old House

Or at Least Nancy Coffee Is Going To Watch Movers Closely—Just in Case

When they start moving Nancy Coffee's house at 202 West Main Street, Nancy is going to be right there every minute,—in case there should be any hidden gold underneath. There is a tradition that soldiers used to hide it in this old house during the Civil War, that it contains secret passages and an underground vault. To many of the older residents of Plymouth it brings back memories of gay parties in the days when Attorney Thomas S. Armistead owned it and it was one of the social centers of the town. Whether or not it was actually standing during the Civil War does not seem to be definitely known. It

136 Hogs Sold by 14 Farmers This Week

Fourteen farmers sold hogs through the Plymouth Mutual Livestock Association this week. The hogs were purchased by the Schluderburg-Kurdie Packing Co., of Baltimore, at \$11.80 per 100 pounds F. O. B. Plymouth. Swift & Company, of Baltimore, entered a bid only 50 cents below this figure. Other bids were \$10.50 and \$11. One hundred and thirty-six hogs were sold. The next auction will be held on Tuesday, September 7, according to Farm Agent W. V. Hays. The auctions are held regularly on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, and all farmers are welcome to bring hogs in for sale, he said.

County Schools Open Thursday Next Week

TOBACCO MARKETS

The 1937 tobacco season got underway Thursday with prices for early sales ranging around 22 cents, nearly all the markets reporting the heaviest sales in several years. While the prices were described as not high, the farmers are reported to have said they were fair. Few complaints were heard during the early selling period. The market at Williamston reported an average of \$23.37 during the first hour of selling, reliable reports stating that much inferior tobacco depressed the price average. Two of Williamston's warehouses were filled from wall to wall, and it was conservatively estimated that there were more than 325,000 pounds placed on the floors for sale.

KIECKHEFER CO. TO HAVE FINE WATER SUPPLY

Well Driven at Country Club Gives Large Flow Cold, Soft Water

Pure, fresh water, cold and crystal clear, was struck by workmen driving a well at the new Plymouth Country Club, according to W. W. Henderson, supervisor of the Kieckhefer Container Company. This water had not the least trace of the sulphur found in the town water and was very soft, he told the City Council at a special meeting Monday night. The well, at this depth of more than 300 feet, did not appear to have sufficient flow to meet the needs of the country club, which will require nine large sprinklers in almost constant operation and additional water for the swimming pool, he said. The pipe was therefore raised to about 275 feet and there a flow of 235 gallons per minute was found. This water was not quite as good as that deeper, but is excellent water, even so, he said. Mr. Henderson appeared before the council to present a contract which would provide for the purchase of additional water by the company from the town. He indicated that the company will probably not use a great deal of town water now that it has such a fine well, but stated that it desires to have its mains connect with those of the city so that during a dry spell it may be assured sufficient water should its own well prove insufficient. The contract, which he proposed to the town, was approved by the council after one or two minor (Continued on Back Page)

Woman's Shop Is Being Modernized

The Woman's Shop has been undergoing extensive repairs and improvements this week. A new wood floor will replace the old concrete floor, the entire interior is being repainted, and the old front has been torn out to be replaced by modern show windows and an attractive new doorway. Mrs. Blanche Swain, the proprietor, says she expects to be ready for business either on Saturday or the first of next week. She has been in business here 10 years, and has just returned from New York, where she purchased a line of fall merchandise.

Rev. Richard Lucas Will Speak at Next Union Service Here

Baptist Pastor Unable To Fill Engagement Sunday Account Sickness

Union services of the Plymouth churches will be held in the Disciples Church Sunday evening this week, with the Rev. Richard Lucas, pastor of the Baptist church, as the probable speaker. Mr. Lucas was to have spoken last Sunday at the Methodist church, but was unable to do so, as he had been sick most of the week and was hardly able to preach the morning sermon to his own congregation. Marshall Shives, of Duke University, speaking in his place, took as his subject, "The Fears in Our Lives." "I was afraid"—that is a phrase that could be written over countless tombstones," he said. "How many banks have been forced to close their doors because some one was afraid and his or her fear spread to others until a run was started?" he asked. "What terrible suffering has resulted from the closing of those banks. What a vast amount of human misery is the result of fear." "But all fear is not bad," he continued. "There is the fear that makes one look carefully up and down the street before crossing, and there is the fear of animals that makes men arm in protection against them, and the fear of rain and cold that makes man build houses to live in. "A small boy walking past a grave yard at night whistles to keep up his courage. How many of our fears could not be thus easily whistled away, leaving us in a better state of mind to deal with those others which are based on reality. "Of these, the greatest is the fear of sin," he said. "Let us so live that we need have no fear. And when the great recording angel writes beside our names, let us have so lived that he will write there, 'He was not afraid.'"

HIGHWAY POLICE IN DRIVE AGAINST OUT-STATE CARS

Patrolmen Warn More Than 50 Workmen at Mill To Get N. C. Licenses

Several state highway patrolmen arrived in Plymouth this week, and within a few hours from 50 to 60 men working at the Kieckhefer plant were notified that they must obtain North Carolina plates for their automobiles. Visitors from other states are given the same privileges under the North Carolina motor vehicle laws that the states from which they come grant to residents of North Carolina. But the state, while generally permitting visitors to spend 30 days within its boundaries before requiring North Carolina plates, requires such plates as soon as a motorist obtains work here. It is expected that the state patrolmen will spend several weeks in and around Plymouth continuing their drive to enforce this provision of the highway laws, according to Chief of Police P. W. Brown.

No Pulp Finishing Plant To Be Built Now at New Mill

Supervisor Says Kieckhefer Company To Wait Several Years at Least

Several rumors that have been going the rounds in Plymouth for some weeks have at last been killed by W. W. Henderson, supervisor of the Kieckhefer Container Company. "It is possible, but not probable, that the company will build a finishing plant here within the next few years," he told members of the City Council at a special meeting. The second rumor: That either the Kieckhefer Company or one of the Dupont corporations would build a rayon plant here, was likewise denied. "The Kieckhefer Company is not in the rayon business," he said, and indicated that Dupont, so far as he knows, is not contemplating any plant here. "The Kieckhefer Company plans to use this plant for the manufacture of rough pulp, which it would otherwise be obliged to purchase from foreign manufacturers," he said. "The wars and extensive military preparations abroad have made it virtually impossible to purchase foreign pulp at any price during recent months," he added. "Wood pulp that could be had for \$25 a ton delivered in New York a year ago was scarce at \$54 a ton a few months ago, and cannot be found at any price now." News that the Kieckhefer Company does not plan to build a finishing plant here, at least for several years, came as a considerable disappointment to local merchants, who had been looking forward to a substantial increase in business if such a plant, employing several hundred additional men, was added.

Plymouth Man Gets Important Position With Firestone Co.

B. F. Read Placed in Charge Of Brooklyn Area After 13 Years With Firm

Mrs. Claudia Read, of Plymouth, was notified this week of the promotion of her son, B. F. Read, to a position as district manager of the Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, in charge of both wholesale and retail sales for the Brooklyn, N. Y., district. Mr. Read has been with the Firestone company 13 years now, and has made steady progress from his first job as a traveling salesman for the Eastern North Carolina area. He was next placed in charge of the store at Norfolk, Va., and later was made assistant district manager of the Richmond and Washington districts. For the past 18 months he has been in charge of the national and state government sales for the Southeastern zone, with headquarters at Atlanta, Ga. Mr. Read was born here, educated in the Plymouth elementary and high schools, and married a Plymouth girl, the former Nona Gurganus. Mr. and Mrs. Read now have two children, Elizabeth, age 15, and B. F. Read, jr., age 9.

Over 3,100 Acres Land in Lake Phelps Area Bought by Federal Government Agency This Week

Transfers Recorded Show \$90,089 Paid to Nine Former Owners

The United States Government purchased approximately 3,196 acres of farm land just north of Lake Phelps in Washington and Tyrrell Counties this week. The price paid amounted to more than \$90,089. Four months ago the government purchased 840 acres at \$20,000 in the same section. Thus, it now owns approximately 4,036 acres, worth \$110,089 near the town of Creswell, one of the oldest farming sections of the South. The purchases were made by the Resettlement Administration of the Department of Agriculture, following nearly a year's investigation and study by surveyors, engineers, and farm experts. The land is now being drained and cleared by WPA workers and laborers engaged by the Resettlement Administration. It is on the banks of several old canals, dug in Colonial times by slave labor. During recent years these had become partially filled and clogged so that the water did not flow off as it should and the farms have suffered as a consequence. The "Old" or Somerset Canal, which runs through the land acquired by the government, was built to connect Lake Phelps with the Scuppernon River. Barges used to carry farm produce from the plantations along the five-mile long canal down to the river, where it was reloaded into schooners and small ships, which carried it to Europe. Much of this land was originally granted by English kings in great tracts to their royal favorites, and has come to be known as the Magnolia, Somerset, Western, and Shepherd Farms. The first piece acquired by the government was purchased from the A. E. Shore estate. It amounted to 840 acres and cost the government \$20,000. The deed of sale was registered in the Plymouth courthouse on April 21. The next pieces acquired were recorded this week as follows: From W. J. Comstock, 269 acres at \$94,600; from J. R. Snell, 382 acres at \$1,434.10; from D. E. Woodley, 282 acres at \$1,128.95; E. S. Woodley, 258 acres at \$1,034.10; from E. S. Woodley, 100 acres at \$402.10; from W. S. Ainsley, 54 acres at \$325.25; from H. G. Walker and J. L. Phelps, 203 acres at \$5,687.16; and from the A. G. Walker Estate, 1,648 acres at \$74,132.51. This land is as rich as any in the state, according to County Agent W. V. Hays. It has been used for many years for the growing of cotton, and is suitable also for soy beans and corn. When the Resettlement Administration (Continued on Back Page)

Half of 48 States Represented Here By Mill Workmen

Many Like Jobs That Take Them All Over Country On Construction Work

Fully half of the 48 states are represented among the engineers and workmen who have come to Plymouth to help build the Kieckhefer Container Company's new pulp mill. Auto registration plates tell part of the story. There are plates from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Colorado, Virginia, Florida, Ohio, Michigan, and many other states. But many of the men who have moved in to spend a few months in Plymouth do not drive their own automobiles. When they leave here to look for jobs building more pulp mills, or dams, or bridges, some will ride by train and others will hitch hike. There is romance in far places and for many of these itinerant steel workers, carpenters, and technicians the only job that's worth having is one that gives a man a chance to see the world. Take William Cox, for example. He is 19 years old, was born in Texas, has seen 22 states, hopes to do a lot more traveling, and might even be on the move right now if it were not for the fact that he finds the girls in Plymouth unusually interesting. William came east with his parents when he was a baby, so he does not remember anything about Texas, but he left home at Canton, N. C., five years ago and has been traveling about working at this and that ever since. At first there were jobs in grocery stores, then other shops and factories until he had a few dollars saved up and set out to see the country, sometimes hitch-hiking, sometimes traveling by bus. He came to Plymouth with a subcontractor putting in window sashes and skylights at the mill. Now that this work is about finished he may stay on for a while as a carpenter, he says, or he may go to Florida. "My company has a job starting up in Peoria, Ill., in a couple of weeks, perhaps I'll go out there," he added. He came to Plymouth with a subcontractor putting in window sashes and skylights at the mill. Now that this work is about finished he may stay on for a while as a carpenter, he says, or he may go to Florida. "My company has a job starting up in Peoria, Ill., in a couple of weeks, perhaps I'll go out there," he added. Four sons and two grandsons served as pall bearers. Mrs. N. J. Sexton, of Creswell, sister of Mrs. Spruill came to Plymouth to spend a few days and offer what comfort and assistance she could.

Sales Tax Brings Protests As Many Merchants Pay Up

Investigators Collect Hundreds of Dollars From Storekeepers Here

Plymouth merchants, with one or two exceptions, are feeling pretty blue these days, following the visit of state tax officials, who spent two weeks here checking over their books. Two merchants who sell beer were told that they must pay sales taxes amounting to more than \$1,000. They had not been keeping complete records, and were attempting to absorb the tax themselves rather than pass it on to their customers, they said. However, the tax investigators declared they had not paid enough to the state during the past two years, and they are now preparing to go up on the price of beer. Other merchants were ordered to pay sums of from \$50 to more than \$1,000 each. Only one or two con- (Continued on Back Page)

ISSUES GRID CALL

Cleaton Armstrong, new coach at the local high school, is expected to arrive here this week-end and is anxious to get candidates for the football team together at once to begin training. While it is not known just what day he will be here, Robert B. Trotman, new principal of the high school, has announced that candidates should be at the high school next Tuesday, as he will undoubtedly be on hand then. Mr. Armstrong is from Ayden. He was a coach for one year at Bath, and here will instruct in history in addition to his athletic work. He studied at Eastern Carolina Teachers College and did graduate work at the George Peabody Teachers College in Nashville.

Half of 48 States Represented Here By Mill Workmen

Many Like Jobs That Take Them All Over Country On Construction Work

Fully half of the 48 states are represented among the engineers and workmen who have come to Plymouth to help build the Kieckhefer Container Company's new pulp mill. Auto registration plates tell part of the story. There are plates from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Colorado, Virginia, Florida, Ohio, Michigan, and many other states. But many of the men who have moved in to spend a few months in Plymouth do not drive their own automobiles. When they leave here to look for jobs building more pulp mills, or dams, or bridges, some will ride by train and others will hitch hike. There is romance in far places and for many of these itinerant steel workers, carpenters, and technicians the only job that's worth having is one that gives a man a chance to see the world. Take William Cox, for example. He is 19 years old, was born in Texas, has seen 22 states, hopes to do a lot more traveling, and might even be on the move right now if it were not for the fact that he finds the girls in Plymouth unusually interesting. William came east with his parents when he was a baby, so he does not remember anything about Texas, but he left home at Canton, N. C., five years ago and has been traveling about working at this and that ever since. At first there were jobs in grocery stores, then other shops and factories until he had a few dollars saved up and set out to see the country, sometimes hitch-hiking, sometimes traveling by bus. He came to Plymouth with a subcontractor putting in window sashes and skylights at the mill. Now that this work is about finished he may stay on for a while as a carpenter, he says, or he may go to Florida. "My company has a job starting up in Peoria, Ill., in a couple of weeks, perhaps I'll go out there," he added. He came to Plymouth with a subcontractor putting in window sashes and skylights at the mill. Now that this work is about finished he may stay on for a while as a carpenter, he says, or he may go to Florida. "My company has a job starting up in Peoria, Ill., in a couple of weeks, perhaps I'll go out there," he added. Four sons and two grandsons served as pall bearers. Mrs. N. J. Sexton, of Creswell, sister of Mrs. Spruill came to Plymouth to spend a few days and offer what comfort and assistance she could.

Former Local Editor Takes Vacation Trip

Investigators Collect Hundreds of Dollars From Storekeepers Here

C. V. W. Ausbon, clerk of Washington County Superior Court, and for 40 years editor of the Roanoke Beacon, is taking a little vacation today—his first since 1924, he says. He plans to visit Washington and Baltimore before returning to his work here. He said before leaving that he wanted to travel by water, and so would go to Norfolk, then take a boat up Chesapeake Bay. During his absence, his son, James Ausbon, will carry on his work as clerk of the court. Two men arrested in Plymouth on charge of drunkenness were released on payment of \$4.85 costs Monday night. They were George W. Powell, white, who pleaded guilty, and Percy Lamong, colored.