

THE ROANOKE BEACON

AND WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS

Advertisers will find Beacon and News columns a latchkey to 1200 Washington County homes.

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

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Local Man Absolved Of Blame for Fatal Accident Saturday

Negro Struck by Car of Geo. Joyner Near Oak City Believed Hit-Run Victim

After deliberating only 30 minutes a coroner's jury in Martin County exonerated George Joyner, local A. C. L. express messenger, of any negligence in the death of William Hyman, 60-year-old colored man, who was lying in the road when struck by Joyner's car Saturday night near Oak City.

Hyman's death was thought to have been caused when an automobile operated by Mr. Joyner ran into the body of the victim which was sprawled across the road. His head was crushed, one arm torn nearly off and both legs broken by the machine.

Joyner, accompanied by Miss Evelyn Anthony and Mrs. Roderick Watts, was driving toward Scotland Neck when he discovered the body in the road too late to avoid striking it.

When he applied brakes, the machine struck the body and skidded into a ditch at the side of the road, slightly injuring the occupants of the car and damaging the auto.

It was brought out at the hearing that Hyman had been drinking earlier that night. He was believed to have fallen out of his cart and was walking the highway when hit by a car which left him in the road to be struck again by the car of Mr. Joyner.

The negro's mule and cart were found in Oak City later.

Final Drawing for Cash Prizes Will Be Held Monday

Record-Breaking Crowd Expected; Total of \$325 in Cash To Be Given

A record-breaking crowd is expected here next Monday afternoon, December 27, at 3 o'clock p. m., when the final and major cash awards offered by the Plymouth Merchants' Association will be made. Last year well over 2,000 persons were on hand for the final drawing, and there is no reason to believe that this year's crowd will be any smaller.

Prizes to be given away total \$325, and are divided as follows: First prize, \$200; second prize, \$50; third, \$25; and five prizes of \$10 each.

The campaign was inaugurated about the first of October as a means of stimulating interest in trading in Plymouth. That it has been successful is shown by the fact that nearly 200,000 tickets have been given out by the merchants. Last year only 100,000 tickets were used.

Customers are urged to call for their tickets during the closing days of the campaign. A ticket is given for each \$1 purchase or payment on account, and it is easily possible that the ticket which will call for \$200 when drawn next Monday has not yet been given out. Trade in Plymouth and ask for your tickets.

Transfer Run of Local Conductor

Captain T. A. Brinkley, who has been passenger conductor on the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad from Plymouth to Tarboro for several years, has succeeded Captain George D. Hawks on the Kinston to Weldon run.

Captain Hawks, 71, has retired after 54 years in the company's service. Captain Sanderson, of Portsmouth, has succeeded Captain Brinkley on the run to Tarboro.

Captain Brinkley has not definitely decided whether he will move his family from here or not. If so, it will be some time next year.

12-Foot Channel at River Mouth Nears Completion

Dredging activities underway at the mouth of the Roanoke River where it empties into Albemarle Sound are progressing rapidly and the inspector on the job stated this week that the project was expected to be completed by the 23rd.

When completed the channel will provide a minimum depth of 12 feet, the same as the Inland Waterway channel, and it will permit passage of much larger vessels than has been possible in the past. Before the work started some two weeks ago there was an average depth of only about 9 1/2 feet.



From Everyone of Us
To Everyone of You—
May this Christmas be the merriest and happiest you have ever known.
THE ROANOKE BEACON

Holiday Schedule Of Postal Service Here Is Announced

No Rural or City Delivery Christmas Day; Mail To Be Dispatched

The local postoffice will continue to provide a large measure of service throughout the Christmas holidays, it was announced today by Postmaster George W. Hardison, although it means that employees will have but little time off for themselves during that time.

There will be no rural free delivery or carrier service Christmas Day, he stated, but special delivery parcels and packages containing perishable products will be delivered.

The mail will be dispatched as usual Christmas Day, and mail will be put up for patrons with lock boxes. Mr. Hardison also said that the parcel post window will be opened for 30 minutes after each incoming mail is received and distributed.

Three Cases Tried In County Court

Judge John W. Darden had three cases in Recorder's court Tuesday. One defendant was found guilty, one not guilty and judgment was suspended in the other case.

Wilbur Davenport was acquitted in recorder's court Tuesday of a charge of assaulting Mrs. Eula Sitterson. It was charged that she was walking along the road when Davenport drove a mule across her path, causing her to stop and then he cursed her.

Sam Hoover, colored, was given six months on the roads on a charge of assaulting another negro with an axe.

Bosie Rhodes was charged with non support of his wife and child. The case was continued for judgment until January 4, with the provision that Rhodes give \$10 for the family.

Second Warehouse Is Secured for Peanuts

OFFICE TO BE CLOSED

The office of The Roanoke Beacon will be closed from Thursday through next Tuesday in order to give members of the "force" a few days for Christmas. This is about the only holiday observed by this newspaper during the year, hence the reason for being closed several days.

Everybody will be back on the job and ready for "business as usual" next Wednesday, and in the meantime every member of the crew hopes every reader of The Beacon has the best, happiest and merriest Christmas ever.

Minister Stresses Helping Others in Christmas Sermon

Rev. Mr. Taylor Urges Sympathy and Mercy for Poor and Needy

"Instead of looking upon the needy as a curse we are made happier when we participate in the joy of giving to them, and we must be sympathetic and merciful to those that appeal to us at Christmas time," said Rev. N. A. Taylor to his congregation at the Christian church Sunday morning.

The minister explained that Christ's life was a mission of mercy, recalling to the minds of his hearers occasions when Christ was active in deeds of this kind, and asserted that the church was happiest when extending mercy.

"Christmas is not tied up in packages, lights, dinners and fireworks, but the ideal Christmas is realized when men love, have compassion for the needy and extend mercy to those who are unfortunate.

"Real religion is found in the statement of Jesus, 'pure religion is visiting the fatherless and widows in their afflictions.' We will really enjoy Christmas when we respond to pleas of mercy, as did Christ to the blind man on the road to Jericho."

The minister used as his text: "Christ being rich in mercy... aids us to sit in heavenly places."

During the service the church elected the following officials to serve for three years: E. H. Liverman and W. L. Whitley, elders; Gilmer Ayers, Rudolph Beasley, Herman Spencer, W. W. Browning, and S. D. Davis, deacons. These go to make a church board of 18.

Merchants Pledge \$400 If Necessary To Care for Loss

Will Make Possible Release Of About \$50,000 To County Farmers

Washington County farmers, thru the cooperation of a group of Plymouth merchants, began receiving money last Saturday on peanuts placed in storage at the second warehouse here operated by the Peanut Stabilization Corporation. The first warehouse, opened about a month ago, had already received around 20,000 bags, and it began to look as if the necessary financial arrangements could not be made for the second warehouse until a meeting of the merchants association and the county agent was held last Thursday and the necessary guarantee was made.

At this meeting it was explained that Mr. J. E. Davenport was willing to lease the old Clark Peanut Company warehouse here, for the Stabilization Corporation, but that he did not wish to assume all the responsibility for any shrinkage in weight as the peanuts dried out. After the matter was explained in detail, and the great need for the additional warehouse stressed by the county agent, the following group of men assumed individual responsibility for various amounts of losses, the total being \$400:

A. E. Davenport, Norman Furniture Co., E. H. Liverman, Abe Adler, L. S. Thompson, W. F. Winslow, L. E. Hassell, E. G. Arps, J. R. Manning, P. M. Arps, R. J. Sydenstricker, W. H. Johnson, R. W. Brown, H. A. Willford, S. D. Davis, Sam Adler, G. Bailey, E. S. Blount, Gray Willis, H. E. Harrison, C. E. Ayers, B. G. Campbell, W. V. Hays, W. H. Clark, J. E. Davenport.

The house will take care of approximately 15,000 to 17,000 bags of peanuts and will make possible the release of about \$50,000 to Washington County growers at this time. Indications are that the building will be filled before Christmas, and further deliveries after the house is filled constitute an unsolved problem.

The Peanut Stabilization Corporation, which is not a government agency, although the money for its operation is loaned by the government, is making loans of 3 1/4 cents per pound on peanuts that grade A-3 or better. Allowance is made for 3

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Negotiations Under Way To Purchase Land for State Park

Would Be Located on Shores Of Lake Phelps in This and Tyrrell Counties

Negotiations are now in progress between State Forester J. S. Holmes of the forestry division and the U. S. Farm Security Administration for the acquisition of a new park on the shores of Lake Phelps, the remarkable lake in Washington and Tyrrell counties which is 16 feet above the level of the river into which it empties. Geologists say the lake bed was formed by a huge meteor which fell in that section of the state thousands of years ago.

The land around Lake Phelps is very fertile and before the Civil War some of the state's largest and most prosperous plantations were located there with huge drainage canals dug by slaves. After the war most of these plantations were abandoned.

Recently the Farm Security Administration (formerly the Resettlement Administration) has bought thousands of acres of these lands and old plantations, has been cleaning out the old canals and clearing land in order to establish a group of new farms. But the state owns Lake Phelps and the Department of Conservation, which has jurisdiction over all state lakes, wants some of this land for a state park and has almost convinced the Federal government that it should have it. The tract it hopes to get for the park is that which includes portions of the old Pettigrew and Collins plantations, on which the old mansions are still standing—also the old Collins barn, one of the most unique buildings of its kind found anywhere, according to Mr. Holmes. One of the most beautiful avenues of old cypress trees to be found in the state is on one of these plantations.

County Farmers To Start Applying Soon For Soil Payments

Each Grower Will Be Notified When To Fill Out Application Blanks

Within the next few weeks, Washington County farmers will begin applying for their benefit payments under the terms of the 1937 soil conservation program, it was learned this week from the office of County Agent W. V. Hays.

Mr. Hays stated that applications for the 1937 payments are being prepared in his office for signature by farmers and their tenants. The work has just about been completed for Plymouth Township; and as the showings are completed a notice will be sent to each producer from the agents office telling him where and when to go to sign the application for his 1937 payments, and notifying him to take his tenants along at the same time so that the blank can be properly filled in detail.

Complete figures are not available right now and will not be known until all applications for benefits are received, but it is certain that many Washington County farmers will participate in the payments. Under the terms of the program last year, growers of this county received many thousands of dollars in benefit payments.

The application forms for the farmers to fill in are not very complicated and can be easily executed if the growers will record their acreages, both soil-building and soil-depleting, and have the information ready when they enter their applications for payments.

The information will be checked in the office of the county agent. Farmers are urged to apply for payments at the time and place to be specified directly to them.

Among the farms in the county that are covered by work sheets there is a percentage who have not qualified for maximum payments under the program.

A number of farmers in this county, just as everywhere else, deserted the soil conservation program to some extent this year; some planted their base allotments, and many of those who kept their plantings below the base figures did not effect any great reductions and bumper yields followed for most crops.

Watch Night Service at Creswell Church Friday

The regular Christmas Eve midnight service will be held at the Creswell Baptist church Friday night at 11:30. A special Christmas program will be given Sunday afternoon at 5 o'clock.

Final Appeal Issued For Christmas Fund

ONLY 3 DAYS TO GO

Christmas shoppers have only Wednesday, Thursday and Friday to complete their gift selections, but they will find Plymouth merchants just as eager and ready to serve them as they were when the shopping season began. While the stocks are not as complete as they were a couple of weeks ago, there are still plenty of gift suggestions to be found in the stores here, and new merchandise is being received daily.

For your last-minute gifts, give Plymouth merchants first chance. Not only will you get as much for your money as anywhere else, but you will find them truly grateful for the chance to serve you.

Superior Court for Criminal and Civil Cases Begins 10th

Two Weeks' Term Will Be Presided Over by Judge R. Hunt Parker

A mixed term of Washington County Superior Court opens here Monday, January 10 for two weeks with Judge R. Hunt Parker, of Roanoke Rapids, presiding with a total of 19 civil cases listed on the calendar.

The first two days will be devoted to criminal cases with only a small time allotted for the few that are on the docket. It is expected that it will take only a short time to start on the civil cases which it is sure will not consume the entire two weeks.

The members of the Washington County Bar Association in session here Tuesday decided that 10 civil cases would be listed for the first week and 9 for the second week.

Wednesday, January 12: W. W. Ange, Jr. vs. C. A. Cratch; O. H. Lyon vs. J. J. Johnson; Annie and Mae Spruill vs. W. J. Bell; Elwood Davenport vs. Pauline Davenport.

Thursday, January 13: Branch Banking and Trust Co. vs. E. H. Harris; Jerry M. Harris vs. Wade Waters; Clara Hedgebeth vs. Life Insurance Company; Nancy Coffee vs. Stewart Monroe.

Friday, January 14: J. L. Swain, et al. vs. Clyde McCallum, et al.; M. H. Atamanchuk vs. H. D. Davenport.

Christmas Brings Week-End of Rest For Local Workers

Venerable Plant To Close Thursday; Pulp and Handle Plants Friday

A week-end of rest and recreation is promised to those engaged in employment in and around Plymouth.

The North Carolina Pulp Company will close down Friday; the Plymouth Box & Panel Company will close down Thursday night; and the local unit of the American Fork & Hoe Company will close Friday.

All of these plants will reopen Monday after Christmas with a full force at work, as prospects appear to be brighter for business in the new year.

Stores will be closed Saturday and Sunday, giving two holidays in a row.

There will be little activity at the Plymouth Country Club except for routine parties and golf, as the emphasis there will be placed on New Year's Eve, when a dance is scheduled.

Need Is Still Great; Some Appeals May Have To Be Ignored

Hope To Secure Enough To Provide for 550 Baskets In County

Unless those in Washington County who are more fortunate than others contribute liberally to the Christmas Joy Fund, some of the needy men, women and children will not have a happy Christmas.

The generosity of those who have made contributions is appreciated by those who are in charge of raising this money, but there are many others who can and should contribute to this fund at once. Unless this is done, the agencies cooperating to bring cheer to needy homes will not be able to make a complete distribution.

To date, 550 urgent calls for help have been made to the committee handling the work. Sponsored by the American Legion, it is a community undertaking, with a number of other local agencies cooperating in the work.

Commander Bruce Bateman and District Commander C. McGowan this week issued a general call for all those who will help raise the \$300 that is needed. Only \$230 of this amount had been raised today.

It requires about 50 cents to fill a basket. This includes a pound of candy, pound of raisins, apple, orange and a 25-cent toy. The amount of money on hand now will fill only 460 baskets, against the needed 550, with a possibility that others may be added later.

Arrangements have been made to prepare the baskets at the Legion Hall Friday, and the distribution will be made by a group who have volunteered to help.

The Boy Scouts and the Plymouth Volunteer Fire Department have their toys ready to distribute and will cooperate with each other, although the distribution will be made independently of the other groups.

The firemen and the Scouts have spent every leisure moment in mending the old toys, painting them and preparing them for use by children whose parents will not have the money to buy toys at Christmas.

Contributions have been made to the Legion Joy Fund as follows: Merchants' Association, \$30; Masonic Lodge \$22; Lions Club \$50; Legion \$60; boxes placed on counters in local stores \$20; pageant at school Sunday night \$28.40; and Junior Womans Club 20 packages.

Carol Service at Creswell Church

An impressive Christmas service was given at the Creswell Methodist Protestant Church Sunday night, with members of other congregations joining in the singing of Christmas carols. Small children sang "Silent Night." Mrs. Alice Starr sang a solo entitled, "Wise Men."

Rev. Mr. Wagoner lectured on "The Christmas Story." The communion service was held by candlelight.

Makes Money by Careful Regrading of Tobacco

After an experienced "pin hooker" told him that he often made as high as 16 cents a pound buying tobacco and regrading it, Max Higgins of Yancy County decided to do some grading himself.

Record Crowd at Union Service Held at School

More than 500 people crowded into the Plymouth High School auditorium and 200 were turned away for lack of room Sunday night, when a cast of 100 presented a dramatic pageant entitled "The Magi's Gift," regarded by many as being one of the finest productions ever presented here.

Christmas carols were sung by the glee club and members of the audience. The pageant was given in the nature of a union service, with all the local churches omitting their usual Sunday evening service. Prior to the opening curtain, Rev. R. H. Lucas, of the Baptist church, offered prayer and Rev. C. T. Thrift, of the Methodist church, read the Scripture lesson.

The scenes were beautiful in their portrayal of Christmas in medieval England. The 100 characters were well chosen and gave a splendid performance in every respect.

Rev. N. A. Taylor, of the Christian church, pronounced the benediction with the cast singing "Silent Night" afterwards. Principal R. B. Trotman directed the play with Miss Ruth Modlin assisting with the glee club and Mrs. Laura S. Johnston accompanying on the piano.

The crowd was said to be largest ever to attend a like presentation in Plymouth. A free-will offering was taken for the Empty Stocking Fund, and a total of \$28.40 was realized. This was turned over to the committee in charge of the fund.