

Merry Christmas

TOWN TOPICS

W. C. Jones, agent of the Norfolk Southern, has purchased the home on Main Street formerly occupied by O. H. Lyon and hopes to be in it by the first of the year, providing arrangements can be made for occupancy by that time.

"Business is about 20 per cent under normal now," and even with the spurt it is taking this week, due to Christmas shopping, it will still be a little under normal," says W. F. Winslow, secretary of the Plymouth Merchants Association.

Walter Burgess, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Burgess, has been deputized as a special police officer for the Town of Plymouth and is being employed by a chain store here as floor walker.

Calls for help this year during the Christmas season have been greater so far than was the case last year, Miss Ursula Bateman, superintendent of public welfare, says, but her organization, the Christmas Joy Fund and individuals are making an effort to take care of every needy person so that all may spend a merry Christmas.

The Christmas mails are about 20 per cent under the same period last year, according to Postmaster George W. Harrison, who says this is an approximate figure and that with the upward spurt this week the volume may reach the record of last Christmas season.

Joe Arps, W. Ronald Gaylord, Walter Clark and W. H. Clark were this week planning to leave Sunday for Pasadena, Calif., to attend the Rose Bowl football game between Duke and the University of Southern California on January 2. As they will travel through the country by car, they were looking for another person to go with them.

Dr. and Mrs. S. V. Lewis will spend the Christmas holidays in Middlesex in Wash. County. The district health offices here will be closed from Friday at noon until Tuesday morning at the regular opening hour.

The two sons of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Cox, both in the U. S. Navy, have been assigned to duty on ships. Hubert goes to the U. S. S. Maryland and Bryan on the U. S. S. Tennessee, which is now in Bremerton, Wash.

"A traveler who covers most of the eastern Carolina towns told me that Plymouth, with its decorations and lights so harmoniously arranged, was one of the most beautiful towns in the region, and much credit is due the town and Chief Brown," said J. E. Manning the other day when Christmas decorations were being discussed.

Six Contestants in B. & L. Contest Are Tied for \$100 Prize

Mrs. Ferree Advised Since Last Week of Four Others With Same Slogan

After being notified Wednesday of last week that she and a lady from Asheville were tied for first prize of \$100 in the slogan contest conducted by the North Carolina Building and Loan League, Mrs. J. A. Ferree was this week advised that four other persons had been found to have submitted identical slogans.

The rules of the contest provide that in the event the winning slogan was submitted by more than one person, each was to write a thesis on the building and loan activities, and the one adjudged best would be awarded the \$100 prize. However, Mrs. Ferree has not yet been notified exactly what procedure will be used in selecting the winner from among the six who submitted the winning slogan, "Save to build, build to save."

Mrs. Ferree was leaving Thursday to spend Christmas with relatives, but had notified league authorities how to get in touch with her in the event the winner was selected while she was away.

There were over 600 entries in the contest from all over the state.

Three Cases Tried In County Court

Grady Lamb, 30, white, had prayer for judgment continued indefinitely in his case in recorder's court Tuesday morning, when he entered a plea of guilty to being drunk and disorderly and damaging a heater and other furniture at the home of Mrs. Eva Lamb.

Eddie Jennette, 21, colored, had a non-suit entered in the case in which he was charged with the theft of \$5 worth of groceries from George Bagley.

John Miller, 23, colored, was sentenced to four months on the roads on a charge of carrying a concealed weapon.

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Workers of Section Will Secure Week-End of Rest

A week-end of rest and recreation is in prospect for employees in the various industrial plants and business establishments in and around Plymouth.

At the North Carolina Pulp Company, the maintenance crew will stop work Saturday at noon, while the wood room, digester room and wet room employees will stop at 5 p. m. Sunday and start back again Tuesday. Monday will be observed as the Christmas holiday.

Plymouth Box and Panel Company employees will stop either Thursday or Friday evening to resume work on Tuesday morning. The local unit of the American Fork & Hoe Company has about closed its plant, and the few remaining workers will have Monday off to observe as Christmas.

Schedule of Mail Service Christmas Day Announced

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

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

The mail will be dispatched as usual Sunday and Monday and the mail will be put up for patrons of lock boxes.

Mr. Harrison said that the parcel post window would be opened for 30 minutes after each incoming mail is received and distributed.

Seven Civil Actions On Calendar for Court in January

Not More Than Week's Work On Docket for Term Starting 9th

Only 7 civil cases are on the docket for trial at the mixed term of Washington County Superior Court, which convenes here January 9, with Judge C. Everett Thompson, of Elizabeth City, scheduled to preside.

Monday and Tuesday will be devoted to the hearing of criminal cases. There are only a few of these to come up, with the most important one probably being that of Lundy Chambers, who is in jail charged with the shooting of Seaton VanHorn several weeks ago.

Motion and divorce cases will be called at the pleasure of the court, and it is considered likely that the civil and criminal docket will keep the court in session any longer than Friday.

Although this is a two-week term, it is not believed there will be any court the second week.

The civil calendar follows: Wednesday, January 11: J. L. Halsey vs. Clara E. Snell, Executrix; F. C. Tankerton vs. W. S. Morgan and others.

Thursday, January 12: Nathaniel Coltrin and others vs. A. C. L. Railroad Company; Lula Davenport and others vs. Myrtle Davenport and others; Joseph Rhodes vs. Eastern Fertilizer Company and others; E. R. Jackson vs. T. H. Williams; and E. R. Jackson vs. T. H. Williams.

Petty Thievery Is On Increase

Thieves in the last few days have been active near Plymouth, as about \$55 worth of property was lost by two men near Plymouth, with one recovering his loss.

Ernest Harrison was reported to have lost 3 mink and 11 raccoon skins one night recently, with the total value of the hides reported at about \$37.

E. W. (Dock) Latham, near town, lost six turkeys one night last week, but Monday morning found them in peanut bags at a barn near his home. The value of turkeys was about \$3 each.

FSA LOANS

The Farm Security Administration has reported that more than 144,000 applications for tenant purchase loans have been received since the program started about a year ago.

Special Services for Christmas Planned By Local Churches

Sacredness of Occasion Will Be Emphasized Sunday by All Denominations

Christmas Day, coming as it does on Sunday, will find the churches in Plymouth prepared to emphasize the sacredness of the occasion, and the ministers are making arrangements for special features in all services.

Rev. Wade Johnson announces that the Methodist church will begin observance of the day at 6:30 in the morning with the celebration of the Holy Communion. The Young Women's Missionary Circle will provide special music.

At 9:45 an interesting Christmas program will be given by the young people of the Sunday School, with a special collection to be taken for the orphanage.

At the regular morning service, the pastor will speak on "The Magnificence of the Manger." C. J. Norman will direct the special music in connection with the service, and Shep Brinkley will be at the console of the pipe organ.

There will be no evening service. Regular services will be held at the Baptist church, with the Rev. Paul B. Nickens preaching on an appropriate Christmas theme at the 11 o'clock hour. There will be no service at night.

At the Episcopal church, Sunday school will be held at 10 o'clock, to be followed by the regular service at 11 o'clock, with the Rev. Sidney Matthews, rector, in charge. Monday morning at 10:30 Holy Communion will be celebrated. There will be no evening service Sunday.

Services at the Christian church will include Sunday school at 9:45, with morning worship at 11. The Sunbeams will meet at 6:45, and at 7:30 a dramatization will be given with Christmas tree exercises featured.

Dynamite May Be Used in Effort To Find Body of Negro

Attorney General Rules Coroner Has Right To Use Explosive If Necessary

Dynamite may be used to aid searchers in locating the body of Mengle Combs, 60 colored, believed to have been drowned, who has been missing from his home since December 3, when he left early in the morning to visit his fish nets up the Roanoke River.

Attorney General Harry McMullan advised Coroner W. H. Peele Monday that a coroner has the right to use dynamite in the Roanoke River or in any other stream in an effort to find the body of a drowned person.

Combs' boat was found by searchers the day he failed to return home, and it was generally believed that the negro was drowned not far from the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad station here. However, it is difficult to estimate how far the body may have drifted since that time.

Coronel Peele was advised that if the water was dynamited that the concussion will often cause a body to rise to the surface, and he is today conferring with experienced handlers of dynamite relative to securing them to attempt to find the body in this manner. He hopes to complete arrangements with the dynamite experts and locate the body before Christmas so that it may be turned over to the family for burial.

Christmas Whiskey Sales Likely To Be Less Than in 1937

Few Cases of Intoxication Are Reported by Law Officers Throughout County

While figures for sales during the month of December are not available, observers who keep tab on what is going on the county are of the opinion that this Christmas season will by no means be as "wet" in Washington County as it was during the holiday season in 1937.

There is not as much money in circulation at this period as there was in 1937, and the whiskey receipts even in the rush this week will not be as high as they were prior to Christmas last year.

Last year on Christmas Eve close to \$1,500 worth of whiskey was sold in the county, while this year it is not believed that the receipts for the same day will reach this amount by some hundreds of dollars.

It was also noticeable this week that those buying liquor are apparently consuming it very circumspectly, as police and county officials have reported very little intoxication apparent on the part of the populace.

According to Washington County officers, the folks who consume the ardent spirits have apparently learned how to handle it better than during the days of the very powerful and potent Washington County "corn."

Local Officers Holding Man For Norfolk Authorities

Officers were expected Wednesday from Norfolk to take I. E. Ange, local plumber, back with them to face a grand jury indictment in Corporation Court No. 2 there on a charge of grand larceny by fraudulent check. Sheriff J. K. Reid was holding him in jail until the Norfolk officers arrived. A capias sent to local officers for service directed that he should be held without bail on the indictment and he was arrested Wednesday.

It was reported here that Mr. Ange had secured plumbing fixtures, giving a worthless check in payment.

Final Appeal Issued For Christmas Fund

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

Total Raised So Far Around \$200; Need Is Greater Than Last Year

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 in the 750 urgent cases will not have a very happy Christmas.

The generosity of those who have made contributions is appreciated by those who in charge of raising the money, but there are many more who can and should contribute to the 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 around 750 urgent calls have been made on the committee handling this work, against 550 last year, when there was a plenty. Over \$300 were donated to this worthy work last year, as compared with a total of \$153.85 in cash and \$15 in merchandise reported for this year up to Tuesday night.

Commander W. V. Hays, of the American Legion, which is cooperating with other agencies in handling the Joy Fund, reported Tuesday that he was being overwhelmed with calls for assistance and that the money subscribed so far would not be sufficient to cover the needs.

Mrs. W. A. Davidson, president of the Womens Club and chairman of the Joy Fund committee, said that every effort was being made to meet as many calls as possible, but that more money was urgently needed.

Arrangements have been made to prepare the baskets at the community hall Friday, and the distribution will be made Saturday by volunteer workers.

The Plymouth Fire Department will have their "re-newed" toys at the community hall Friday to be included in the baskets which will be delivered to homes where there are children who would otherwise receive no toys this Christmas.

Contributions have been made to the Joy Fund, and are gratefully acknowledged by the committee, as follows: \$25 each: American Legion, Merchants' Association, Plymouth Box & Panel Company, North Carolina Pulp Company.

\$17: Missionary Society of the Methodist Church; \$15 in boxed gifts by the Episcopal Church; \$10 each: Legion Auxiliary, Engineers' Union at Pulp Mill, Senior Woman's Club;

\$7.85: Lions Club; \$5 each: Baptist Sunday School, Branch Banking & Trust Company, Roanoke Beacon.

\$2: Parent-Teacher Association; Thursday Afternoon Literary Club. \$1 each: Coca-Cola Bottling Works, T. W. Earle.

It is believed that the total will be brought to at least \$200 before the baskets are distributed, as some firms have not turned in their pledges as yet, but will pass over their checks the last of the week. Even then, the fund will be around \$100 less than it was last Christmas and the number of calls has increased this year by about 200.

Red Cross Donations Now Standing at \$94

Belated returns from workers continuing to come into headquarters here reveal that the total donations to the American Red Cross from this county have increased to \$94, according to Mrs. Russell E. White, chairman of the roll call committee.

E. H. Liverman, Frances Bowen, Nellie Tankerton, Irene Dixon, R. B. Trotman, Mrs. Katherine Harrison, Mendon Davis and Miss Margaret Edgerton are included as contributors in the latest list handed to Mrs. White.

The new list brought to a total of 94 the memberships which have been secured in Washington County, and Mrs. White is well pleased with the work done by the canvassers.

Solicit Contributions To Buy Gifts For Caddies

Golfers will remember the caddies at the Plymouth Country Club this Christmas, as Julian Brinkley was around Wednesday soliciting donations from the golfers to be used in purchasing some gifts for the 25 faithful servants of golf players here.

Bill Robbins applied for membership in the organization. The boys played games and enjoyed themselves during the remainder of the meeting.

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OFFICE CLOSED

The office of the Roanoke Beacon will be closed from Friday through next Tuesday in order to give members of the "force" a few days for Christmas. This is one of the few holiday occasions 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.

Many Toys Repaired By Firemen; Will Be Delivered Saturday

Fire Chief Expresses Thanks For Response To Appeal By Local People

Scores of toys have been repaired, repainted and made ready for distribution to needy children by the volunteer firemen in Plymouth, according to Chief L. W. Gurkin, who has expressed his appreciation for the response made by the residents to requests for these toys.

Firemen have worked in their spare time, mostly at night, for the last two weeks, in order to get these items of cheer in good condition for the needy children so that they will be ready for the children to amuse themselves with on Christmas Day.

No more toys to be painted can be handled after Wednesday, as the first coat will have to be applied Wednesday night and the second coat Thursday night. On Friday night all the toys will be taken to the community hall to be put in the baskets for distribution on Saturday, according to Chief Gurkin.

The total number of toys reworked by the firemen has not been determined yet, but there are expected to be close to 100, which will be only a few less than were distributed last Christmas. There were a number of nice large wheel toys, including tricycles and wagons, donated this year and put in good condition by the firemen.

"It would be a revelation for some of those who contributed these discarded toys to see the beaming faces of the little tots when they find that Santa Claus has not forgotten them on Christmas Day, due solely to the generosity of the people in Plymouth and its environs," the chief said.

Funeral Services for Helen Louise Spruill Held Last Saturday

Died Friday at Home of Parents in Pleasant Grove Community

Funeral services for Miss Helen Louise Spruill, 17, were conducted Saturday afternoon at the Pleasant Grove Methodist Church by the Rev. J. T. Stanford, pastor, assisted by the Rev. Luther Ambrose, and Dr. G. A. Martin.

Miss Spruill, a native of Washington County, died at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Spruill, of the Pleasant Grove section near Mackeys, last Friday after a lingering illness of several years.

Interment took place in the church cemetery. The pall-bearers were her classmates, Earl Swain, Wilmer Swain, Leon Swain, Harold Swain, Kenneth Chesson and L. A. Parrisher, Jr.

Besides her parents, Miss Spruill is survived by three sisters, Misses Statha, Annie and Dorothy Spruill; two brothers, Hampton and Nathan Spruill; all of Washington County; and her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Spencer, of Columbia.

Cubpack Here Holds Meet Last Thursday

Cubmaster Tom Brown announced at the Cubpack meeting held in the courthouse last Thursday evening that the den submitting the best foot mat made from bottle crowns would be given a free trip to the show.

Bill Robbins applied for membership in the organization. The boys played games and enjoyed themselves during the remainder of the meeting.

