

The Rev. P. B. Nickens, pastor of the local Baptist church, is in a Durham hospital, where he had his tonsils removed, and today it was reported that he was improving steadily and was expected back by the end of the week to fill his pulpit in the local church Sunday.

Sheriff and Mrs. J. K. Reid this week took Lundy Chambers, convicted murderer of Hardy Van Horn; and Delma Meekins, negro, convicted of stealing from railroad cars, to Raleigh to start their prison terms. Chambers was sentenced to from 7 to 10 years and Meekins for 4 years.

Seventy-five shares have been sold in the fifth series of stock in the Plymouth Building and Loan Association, it was learned today from M. W. Spruill, secretary and treasurer, who says that the organization is gradually but surely increasing in interest among the local people.

If the movement succeeds for city councilmen to be paid a per diem for their service at meetings all of the various board members of the county, including commissioners, education and health, will get a per diem remuneration except the board of public welfare, the members of which have never received any pay for their services.

L. S. Thompson Thursday began his annual clearance sale, with prices marked down to a low level to give customers and shoppers in this section the advantage of some low-priced merchandise purchased to be included in this sale.

Plymouth had its first real snow in two years Monday, when the ground was covered with a fall of from 1 to 2 inches. However, by nightfall, it was practically all gone. About 8 inches of snow was reported the same day in the sections around Hobgood, Scotland Neck, and A. Lander.

Joe Arps and Clayton House, with two other friends, attended a Chevrolet meeting held in Rocky Mohn last week, and then continued on to Raleigh, where they attended the wrestling show refereed by Jack Dempsey, former heavyweight champion of the world.

Jack Owens, Stanford Mizelle, and B. W. Britton, of the staff of the Plymouth Theatres, left by motor on Friday night for the Old Dominion, visiting the Naval Base and other points of interest in Norfolk and returning home Saturday.

John Sikes, of Edenton, one-time manager of a fisheries organization in Morehead City and widely known newspaperman, was here Wednesday on business. He is now connected with an insurance company in charge of the work in several counties.

Building and Loan Official Speaker at Club Last Thursday

Cites Tangible Benefits To Be Derived by Community From Association

A building and loan organization adds tangible values to a community in new homes, provides a cooperative system of thrift, gives the participating individuals a sense of security, converts renters into home owners, keeps money at home and justifies the confidence reposed in it by stockholders, Martin Guardian, of Raleigh, executive secretary of the North Carolina Building and Loan League, told members of the Lions Club last Thursday night.

George W. Crone, of Raleigh, deputy insurance commissioner, who checked the records of the local organization while here Thursday, publicly told those present that he had been over the financial statement of the local organization and that it stacked up with any in the state.

Hoey May Speak at Roper School Finals

No definite decision has been made by Governor Clyde R. Hoey as to whether or not he will accept an invitation to be the commencement speaker at the Roper High School, it was learned today from Principal D. E. Poole.

The governor advised Mr. Poole this week to write him later about the matter and then he would make a definite decision about March 1 as to whether he would be able to attend or not.

It is hoped by the school officials that the governor will make the address at the exercises, which will also be featured by a program in honor of Miss Augusta Carstarphen, who is rounding out 60 years of service in the teaching profession this term.

Proposed Drainage Plan Approved by Supervisor

The approval of C. L. White, Jr., of Raleigh, area supervisor for the State Board of Health, was added to that of J. A. Ferree, district sanitary officer, and T. W. Armstrong, manager of the Scuppernon Farms FSA project, recommending the drainage and cleaning of the hundreds of acres of land along the Scuppernon River in lower Washington County as a malaria control project for the WPA.

It will be necessary now for an engineer to make a complete survey and then make a profile of the physical condition of the land in the section that borders the river from Bull Pond to Cherry, including the farms and timberlands, according to Messrs.

Ferree and White, who went over the area Wednesday.

More than 1,000 people would be benefited by the drainage and sanitary improvement of the area, some sections of which are under water at different seasons of the year, and travel is almost impossible there at times.

It remains now for a map and survey to be made in order to determine the number of acres in the area and to estimate the cost of the proposed project. Application will then be made to the WPA to furnish funds for the project as one which will eliminate mosquito breeding places and effect malaria control, as well as increase the value of the land.

Farm Bureau Adding Many New Members

Farmers, Business And Professional Men Are Joining

Barbecue Supper To Be Given Wednesday Night

The campaign for members now being conducted by the Washington County Farm Bureau is daily adding members to the roll of the organization, with increasing interest being manifested not only by the farmers but by business and professional men as well, according to Miss Helene Duval, secretary to County Agent W. V. Hays. The membership fee is \$2, part of which remains in the treasury of the county organization while the remainder is used to promote the programs outlined by the state and nationally affiliated groups, particularly in influencing the passage of legislation considered beneficial to farming interests.

"Business men, when approached, apparently are much interested in the work of the organization and many of them are joining. We have not met any of them yet who required cajoling or coaxing," said Miss Duval, who is also a worker on one of the two teams competing for the honor of securing the most members. A. J. Riddle and W. D. Phelps are leaders of the two groups.

"The Farm Bureau," according to the county agent, W. V. Hays, "no doubt gave us the AAA program and assisted in drafting the soil conservation program. The various bureaus throughout the country are at the present time studying how to improve the present program."

"The Farm Bureau was created for the purpose of sponsoring and promoting any improvements that would benefit the farm people in this county, as well as protect their interests."

"The Farm Bureau, like the church or fraternal order or any other organization, returns to the farmers benefits according to the ratio of effort and interest put into the organization. One hears it said on every corner that it is impossible to do anything with the farmers, that you cannot organize them. This is a mistaken idea, and I believe the farmers will organize when they can be shown that it is necessary and of some benefit to them."

"There are two people in the county who believe in the Farm Bureau and the people of Washington County so strongly that they have agreed to feed the entire membership at the next meeting, which will be held on Wednesday night, January 25, at 7:30, in the agriculture building at Plymouth. Tickets to this free barbecue dinner may be secured from either A. J. Riddle or W. D. Phelps," said Mr. Hays.

Buyer Says Now Is Time for Preparing Tomato Plant Beds

Seed Should Be Sown by February 20 and Plants Set Out by April 15

Now is the time to begin preparing plant beds for tomatoes, according to W. T. Freeman, of the firm of Phelps & Freeman, at Roper, who will buy, pack and ship tomatoes during the harvesting season.

Seed should be sown around February 20 in the beds and should be transplanted by April 15 so that the tomatoes may be ready for shipment as early as possible, as it is generally known that the early crop is the most favorable.

Mr. Freeman said his firm planned to ship as long as shipping was profitable. They will also buy tomatoes and his organization will pack and ship them for the farmers.

Receiving points will be at Plymouth and Roper, and Mr. Freeman said he thought his organization would be able to care of all of the tomatoes grown in the county. The Department of Agriculture looks for better prices this season, he said, as last year's disastrous prices tended to greatly reduce the acreage planted to tomatoes.

COUNTY PHYSICIAN

In a short session held by the Washington County Board of Health last Friday morning, Dr. T. L. Bray was named to succeed himself as county physician to care for the inmates at the county home and do other county health work.

Dr. Alban Papineau was named a member of the board to succeed Dr. Bray. Other members of the board are: Dr. W. H. Johnson, J. R. Campbell, chairman of the board of commissioners; B. G. Campbell, mayor of Plymouth; and H. H. McLean, superintendent of schools.

4 Cases Continued In County Court

Four persons will be arraigned in recorder's court next Tuesday on a charge of damaging personal property and aiding and abetting in damaging personal property, as the result of injuries to the cattle of Mrs. E. W. Latham, of the Garretts Island section near Plymouth. The cases were originally set for trial this week but continued until next Tuesday for the defendants. James Spruill, 13, white, and Bill Daniels are charged with shooting a cow and some calves of Mrs. Latham's that were off the premises of the owner, G. C. Spruill, father of one of the defendants, and James Langston are charged with furnishing the shotgun and shells used in injuring the cattle. The incident occurred several days ago.

Jack Odum, 40, white, charged with being drunk and disorderly and making himself a nuisance, had prayer for judgment continued until February 21st.

Carney Davis, 32, colored, was given two months, suspended upon payment of the costs, for assaulting Walter McCall.

Martin and Beaufort May Join Albemarle

Movement on Foot To Invite Them, Says President of Group

Matter Will Be Considered at Next Meeting of Association This Summer

A movement is now on foot to invite Martin and Beaufort Counties to become members of the Southern Albemarle Association, leading civic organization of this section, it was announced by C. W. Tatem, of Columbia, who was here Wednesday.

Martin County, according to Mr. Tatem, should become a member, as the territory covered by it was in the original Southern Albemarle section, while Beaufort's interest would lie in the fact that it is closely associated with the charter member counties, Hyde, Dare, Tyrrell and Washington.

If these two would bring together for the common interest of the section, six counties with a total population of 94,000, divided as follows: Beaufort, 35,000; Martin, 25,000; Washington, 12,000; Hyde, 9,000; Tyrrell, 7,000, and Dare, 6,000.

Congressman Lindsay Warren suggested Beaufort's entrance, and others have suggested that Martin become a member. They have many interests in common with the original members of the organization and their addition would greatly strengthen the association in its efforts to advertise and assist in the development of the whole section by cooperative action.

Mr. Tatem said he had talked with State Department of Agriculture officials, and they are in favor of the union constituting one of the zones which they are now arranging in their program of sectional development.

The proposal to add these counties will likely be brought up at the next meeting of the association, to be held in Dare sometime this summer.

Home of Cross Roads Farmer Is Destroyed By Flames Monday

Haywood Chesson Had Only Recently Moved To Place; Owned by C. E. Ayers

Caused apparently by a faulty flame, flames rapidly spread over the home of Haywood Chesson in the Cross Roads section, near Roper Monday morning, burning to the ground one of the best tenant country homes in Washington County.

The dwelling, owned by C. E. Ayers, of Plymouth, had a double-floor, storm-sheeted walls, and plumbing fixtures for country homes; and it was a much-sought-after residence for tenants and share-croppers, who found it much more comfortable than the homes usually occupied by them.

The loss, according to Mr. Ayers, was about \$2,000 for the dwelling; while Mr. Chesson lost several hundred dollars' worth of furniture besides some cash that was concealed in the home.

Just before leaving the home Monday morning, Mr. Chesson told Mr. Ayers that he remarked to his wife that "this is the best home we ever lived in; and, just think, we can live here as long as we like." Thirty minutes later he returned to find the timbers falling in on the burning home.

Mr. Chesson is close to 70 years of age and adversity has visited him in many ways, including the loss of a mortgaged farm he was trying to buy as well as several thousands of dollars in bank failures. Now, in his old age, much of the furniture that he had managed to accumulate in a lifetime has vanished in flames.

"He is one of the most heart-broken men I have ever seen," said Mr. Ayers, who had about \$700 worth of insurance to help him take care of the loss on the house itself.

Mr. Chesson is living with relatives near by until Mr. Ayers can erect a new house on the farm.

Decomposed Body of Negro Missing Since December 3rd Found

Located in River Near A. C. L. Station Monday; Finder Claims \$100 Reward

The badly decomposed body of Mengle Combs, 60, colored, was found half-buried in mud and silt near the gravel-unloading chute at the Atlantic Coast Line station Monday by David Pettiford, who was conducting a search in order to claim the \$100 reward offered by Combs' widow for finding the body.

Combs had been missing from his home since December 3, when he left early in the morning to visit his fish nets up the Roanoke River. His boat was found by searchers the day he failed to return home, and although an intensive search had been made by the man's friends and relatives, as well as by county authorities, no trace of him had been found until his body was located Monday.

It was reported that in addition to desiring the body for relatives to give the ill-fated negro a proper burial, the reward of \$100 was offered so that his widow could claim several hundred dollars' worth of insurance, payment of which was withheld until the body could be presented as evidence of death.

County Coroner W. H. (Jack) Peele had been advised that concussion often caused a body to rise to the surface of the water, and he had sought the advice of Attorney General Harry McMullan as to the legality of using dynamite for this purpose. The attorney general ruled it was permissible to dynamite for the body, but this was not successful. Some believe the thunder on Sunday night caused the body to rise and float down the river until it lodged in the mud and silt where it was found Monday.

Methodists To Meet In Hertford on 26th

Washington County Methodists are planning to attend the Elizabeth City District Missionary and Evangelistic Institute and Youth Rally, that will be held in the Methodist Church at Hertford, Thursday, January 26, according to the Rev. Wade Johnson, pastor of the local Methodist church.

The conference will begin at 10 o'clock in the morning with Presiding Elder B. B. Slaughter presiding over the meeting, which will have as its theme "A Missionary-Minded Church" in the morning, "Evangelism" in the afternoon, and "The Youth Crusade" at night for the young folk.

Mr. Johnson urges a large attendance from his charge and other churches in the section.

Baptist T. E. L. Class To Meet Next Tuesday

The T. E. L. Class of the Baptist church will meet Tuesday night at 8 o'clock with Mrs. W. V. Hays at her country home, it was announced by Mrs. J. B. Carlisle, secretary, who urges every member to attend.

Local Colored Basketball Team Defeats Pantego

The Plymouth Colored High School defeated Pantego here Wednesday night, 49 to 32, in a hard-fought game. Parker, with 21, led the scorers, Lloyd being second with 13.

Town Gets New Electric Rate; Means Big Saving

The City Council in a special session here Wednesday afternoon signed a 10-year contract with the Virginia Electric & Power Company to supply current to the Town of Plymouth at a new low rate of 1 cent per kilowatt hour without a minimum.

Based on the month of October, a savings of \$56.40 monthly will be saved the town or a total of \$676.80 a year, according to Mayor B. G. Campbell, who had the statistics to show the advantage of the new rate to the town. The rate became effective on January 1, 1939, and will

apply for 10 years at the reduced rate. The rate prior to the new schedule was 3 1/2 cents per kilowatt hour with a high minimum.

This rate applies only to town current purchased and includes the water and sewer pumps and lights for the town hall.

Mr. Teel, representative of the Virginia Electric and Power Company, met with the councilmen and explained the new rate, which was instantly agreed to and adopted by the town officials and the contract signed.

Making Applications For Benefit Payments

LEADERS' SCHOOL

Miss Elizabeth Smith, of Raleigh, new assistant house furnishing specialist for State College, will conduct the first house furnishing leaders' school ever held in Washington County next Tuesday afternoon, January 24, at 2 o'clock, in the agriculture building here.

"Every house furnishing leader in the county is urged to be present promptly at 2 o'clock," said Mrs. Frances M. Darden, home demonstration agent, who pointed out that all women are invited, and the house furnishing leaders are especially urged to be present.

Days Designated for Farmers in Various County Communities

Prompt Response Will Insure Quicker Handling of Applications

Applications for benefits under the 1938 soil conservation program are being made by Washington County farmers this week, according to County Agent W. V. Hays, who has arranged a convenient schedule for producers to apply for the payments in the various communities.

Scuppernon Township farmers were notified to apply for the 1938 benefits on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week at C. N. Davenport's store in Creswell and large crowds were present on the days specified to have their blanks filled out. The information is being typed at the agent's office here.

Skinnerville Township signers met those who assisted them in preparing their applications at Joe Pritchette's store Thursday.

Lees Mill Township farmers are urged by Mr. Hays to make their applications at the store of Phelps and Freeman in Roper Friday and Saturday of this week, while growers in the Plymouth and Wenona sections will fill out their blanks next week in the county office at Plymouth.

"We hope that the farmers will go to the places designated if possible and sign these applications, since it is much easier to get a large number of applications through the Raleigh and Washington offices and the checks back to Plymouth earlier than it is to send the applications in a few at a time over a period of months."

"Any county that can get its applications ready and send 80 per cent at one time gets the right of way through the balance of the work in Washington and these applications are paid in less time," the county agent said.

Complying farmers who find that they are unable or it is inconvenient to apply to the local committees when they sit in the various townships on designated days will find it necessary to file their applications in the office of the county agent.

Accurate figures are not available now as to the amount received last year by Washington County farmers through benefits from the soil conservation program, but it is believed the sum was upwards of \$70,000, although Stuart, Blow, chief clerk in the county agent's office, would not hazard an estimate.

Illinois Legislator Visitor in County

Harry L. Topping, of Kankakee, Ill., one of three representatives from the 20th senatorial district in the Illinois House of Representatives, was a visitor in the county this week, examining a farm in the Wenona section which he has listed for sale. The Illinois representative is a real estate broker and the only Republican member of his district's delegation to the lower house of the legislature.

Commenting on this state's legislature, now in session, Mr. Topping said the Illinois lawmakers were also confronted with the sales tax problem, as that state has a 3 per cent general levy substantially the same as that in effect in North Carolina.

Members of the Illinois legislature are much better paid than those in North Carolina. The salary there is \$5,000 for each six-month biennial session, as compared with \$600 for 60 days here. They are paid in full at the opening of the session, and Mr. Topping said he had already drawn his "five grand" for service this term.

He was very favorably impressed with this section and indicated his intention of returning for a longer visit in the future.

Club To Serve Oyster Supper at Roper 26th

The Roper Home Demonstration Club will give a salad and oyster supper at Roper January 26, with the proceeds going toward a fund being raised to purchase a site for a community house, according to Mrs. L. E. Hassell, in urging the public to attend the supper next Thursday.

Measuring Reception at Christian Church Monday

There will be a measuring reception in the social hall of the Christian Church Monday night at 8 o'clock, sponsored by the Willing Workers' Class and the Young Matrons' Circle, according to Miss Agnes Davis, who urges a large attendance.

Local Doctor Opens New Office in Roper

Dr. Alban Papineau, local physician, this week opened an office in Roper and began holding office hours there from 1 to 3 o'clock daily, affording the people of that community an opportunity of securing convenient medical service. There has been no physician located in Roper since the departure of Dr. J. W. Warren the first of year.

The office is the same one used by Dr. Warren, and Dr. Papineau announces that he will be there from 11 to 3 each day except Saturday and Sunday, when he may be reached in Plymouth.

The local physician explained that the new arrangement would in no way affect his practice in Plymouth, as he will continue his same office hours here, from 9 to 12, 3 to 6, and 8 p. m.

Expenses of Case Will Be at Least \$300, and Possibly Double That Sum

Whether or not the 22 grandchildren of Mrs. B. F. Owens will continue to prosecute their claims to about \$25,000 worth of property at the eastern edge of Plymouth was considered problematical today, as it was learned that an expense item of about \$300 must be met before the lawyers could continue their work on the case.

Col. John D. Langston, of Goldsboro, attorney for the claimants, has advised them that \$300 must be raised by the heirs before preparation the suit starts, and that if the matter is carried to the supreme court another \$300 will be needed for costs.

It is understood that attorneys took the case on a basis of 25 per cent of all the funds recovered for the heirs, but that expenses of the case must be advanced.

Some observers here believe that even if the claims are substantiated by the time the residue of the property gets into the hands of the heirs and all expenses and counsel commissions are paid, not more than \$1,000 will be received by any of the claimants.

Only two of Mrs. Owens' children are living, these being Mrs. A. R. Dupree, sr., and Mrs. Claudia Read. The property over which the controversy arose was purchased by L. L. Owens, a son of Mrs. B. F. Owens, from the other children and then later sold to various people here.

It is understood that a bank in another town has guaranteed title to some of the property, and those who would be forced to defend the action to retain their home sites would get help from this source if the matter is ever brought to trial.

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Peanut Price Nears Four Cents; 75 Per Cent of Crop Is Sold

Most Sales Brought Growers Only 3 1-4 Cents; 4,000 Bags Stored Here

Peanut prices are gradually moving upward toward the 4-cent a pound mark, but so far as could be learned today only two lots in Washington County have been sold for the top price, it was learned from J. E. Davenport, peanut buyer and close observer of the market.

From information that Mr. Davenport had available, it appeared that 75 per cent of the crop grown in this county last year had been sold, and that most of these sold for 3 1-4 cents, the figure at which the price was practically "pegged" by loans available through the Peanut Stabilization Cooperative.

Heavy rains and other adverse conditions kept production in this section down to a very low level last year. It is believed that this fact, coupled with the small amount of peanuts carried over by the cleaners, and the diversion program made possible by the Peanut Stabilization Cooperative have resulted in the price being held as high as it is.

There appears to be little inducement for growers to hold their peanuts longer, however, as it is said the cleaners have about replenished their stocks and are retiring from the market in order to beat down the price.

Mr. Davenport said he hoped that by next fall, when peanuts are being harvested again, that arrangements can be perfected in some way to reopen the local peanut cleaning plant in order to attract growers in this section to the local market.

The government storage warehouse here has received only about 4,000 bags this year against 50,000 last season, a large part of the crop having been sold directly to the cleaners.

Doubt as To Whether Heirs of Mrs. Owens Are To Press Claims

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