

Wilford Whitley, son of Attorney and Mrs. W. L. Whitley, passed his work and was handed his recommendation for advancement to Eagle Scout rank at the court of honor here last Tuesday night. He is the first boy in Washington County to ever be recommended for this honor, which is the highest rating a boy can achieve in the Boy Scout organization.

Illegal whiskey has been seized lately by officers when it was concealed in suitcases, automobiles, in peanut bags swung over the culprit's shoulder, in fish carts, and in many other places, according to Patrolman Tom Brown, who has been aiding officers in making raids and nabbing illicit whiskey dealers.

"Building and loan associations in North Carolina built 12,000 homes, lending \$20,000,000, in 1937; and we have less than 5 per cent of the real estate foreclosed on in recent years on hand today," said Martin F. Guadian, executive secretary of the North Carolina Building & Loan League, who was here last week visiting the local association.

Sam Adler, former local merchant, who was here from Morehead City Wednesday, said that construction work was still in progress on the store building to be occupied by him in his home town, and he denied that he intended to return here, as had been rumored.

L. T. Harrison, Alvah Wheaton, A. W. Alexander, L. M. Moore, J. A. Brooks and Walter H. Paramore, of the local lodge, attended the institution of a Moose Lodge in Elizabeth City Sunday and saw the Norfolk degree team perform the ritualistic work, with 160 men attending the event from several towns.

"In his introductory remarks to me," said County Agent W. V. Hays, regarding the visit here last week of Representative H. A. Topping, of Kankakee, Ill., "Mr. Topping said that he was a member of the Kankakee Farm Bureau." The dues there are \$25 a year for a man and wife.

The successful bidder for the bankrupt stock of Burgess Shoe and Clothing Store here at the trustee's sale in Williamston last Thursday was G. W. Hardison, of Williamston. He moved the stock from here to the store formerly occupied by Harrison Brothers and Company where he is conducting a sale.

**Ralph Davenport Wins Essay Contest at Creswell**

Creswell, Ralph G. Davenport, a student of the twelfth grade of the Creswell High School, was this week named winner of an essay contest sponsored by the State Organization of County Commissioners on "Highway Safety."

Those receiving honorable mention for good papers were Ada Craddock, 12th grade; Theda Hopkins, 11th Margaret Davis, Marjorie Bateman, J. C. Gatlin, Jr., and Harry Barnes, Jr., tenth grade.

**Cause of Fish Scarcity Is Being Investigated**

**Believe Predatory Fish Chief Cause For Failing Supply**

**Federal Bureau of Fisheries And State Department Cooperate in Work**

A thorough and complete investigation is being made of the causes for the scarcity of shad and herring in the Roanoke River and other streams in the section, according to W. R. Hampton, who is attending a meeting of the Board of Conservation and Development in Raleigh this week.

Mr. Hampton stated that it had been found that predatory fish, such as carp, eel, gar, and catfish, had been destroying the eggs of shad and herring and were believed to be the chief cause for the diminishing supply of food fish which formerly abounded in waters of this region.

To correct this, fishermen are being encouraged to use certain kinds of traps for predatory fish which game fish will not enter. The commission also decided, it was said, to make an effort to create a market for the predatory fish in order to make it profitable for the local fishermen to rid the streams of the undesirable species.

Concerning pollution, it is generally believed that pulp-mill wastes and chemicals bring about conditions which constitute a biological problem where fish are concerned, but to just what extent pulp plants have contributed to diminishing the supply of food fish is not known.

Mr. Hampton also indicated that the Board of Conservation and Development will pass regulations for the protection of the fish during the spawning seasons, as well as try to determine some method of preserving the spawn from predatory fish.

Weather conditions, according to the board member, who has been a commercial fisherman for years, make it virtually impossible for anyone to predict with any degree of accuracy the catch that might be expected in streams of this section at this season of the year, and he declined to make any forecasts as to what could be expected this year.

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**New York, San Francisco Fairs Forbid Sale Peanuts**

Without assigning any reason whatever, the New York and San Francisco world fairs getting underway this year have placed a ban on the sale of peanuts at the two events according to unofficial announcements coming from the fair authorities a few days ago. The announcement, puzzling peanut growers of this area, merely stated, "Peanuts won't be sold at the New York and San Francisco world fairs."

"But evidently they are being and will be sold in plenty of other places," John Craddock in his "Behind the Scenes in American Business," commented. Craddock continued:

"Delving into government figures on the peanut industry brings to light some amazing facts. For instance, in 1938 there were 1,887,000 acres in the U. S. planted to peanuts, and a total of 1,424,825,000 pounds were produced, or 11 pounds for each man, woman and child in the country and the largest yield on record. Value of the crop to the farmer was over \$50,000,000. With the aid of modern chemical research, the lowly peanut has proved its usefulness in insulating material, as a base for fine face powder and as breakfast food, in addition to its more common appearance at circuses and ball games."

**Scuppernong Project Has Several Vacancies**

**Interest in Tomatoes Said To Be Growing; Two Firms To Ship**

**Latham and Johnston Announce They Will Be on Market This Spring**

Tomatoes may again become an important money crop in Washington County if the increased interest in the growth of this crop continues until planting and harvesting time, it is now indicated.

Last week, W. T. Freeman, of Phelps and Freeman, at Roper, announced that they would buy, pack, and ship green-wrapped tomatoes, and this week R. W. Johnston and A. R. Latham announced they would do the same.

Several years ago some hundreds of acres of tomatoes were grown in the county, but other sections farther south managed to get their product to the markets earlier than could be done here and prices dropped and interest lagged after most of the growers lost money.

Mr. Freeman said Department of Agriculture officials looked for better prices this year for early tomatoes, as last year's disastrous prices in other sections caused a forecast of less acreage for this year.

Several farmers, according to Mr. Freeman, approached him about planting tomatoes last week, and Mr. Johnston said a number had seen him, and it looks now as if the acreage will be increased enough this year to make tomatoes profitable if they are produced early enough.

None of the buyers will remain on the market when prices drop below the point where a profit can be made.

**Applications Will Be Received From Now Until Next November**

**FSA Project Will Have Farms Available for 55 Qualified Families**

Creswell—Applications for farmers wishing to move to Scuppernong Farms the 12,000 acre Farm Security Administration project in Washington and Tyrrell counties will be received from now until November, 1939, T. W. Armstrong, Community Manager, announced here today.

The project has 35 vacancies available for qualified white farmers and 20 for colored farmers. Individual farms are about 60 acres, with 40 acres of tillable land and new five-room frame houses with barns and out buildings. Rents on a 40-year purchase plan will average about \$180 a year. Each farmer is expected to work his land under a farm plan, with a good rotation of crops.

For accepted farmers without enough stock and equipment, the Government will make loans to let the new men start off with enough to farm the land well and have a good program of family living. To qualify farmers must be fairly young, not heavily in debt, with a reputation for hard work and for being good neighbors. All members of the family must pass a medical examination and the farmer and his wife must agree to work with the local management in carrying out their farming and live-at-home program.

The project is composed of many famous old plantations lying between Lake Phelps and the Albemarle Sound. These plantations were in a high state of cultivation many years ago but under absentee ownership the drainage system has ceased to work satisfactorily. The Farm Security Administration improved the main drainage canals and cut new ones. About 6,000 acres of fertile soil has been reclaimed. Sixty-five farms have been divided off and sold or leased to new settlers. Fifteen more of these farms are open for white farmers and five for colored farmers.

Two large farms, one leased to the Scuppernong Mutual Association comprising 2500 acres and one leased to the Western Mutual Association for colored farmers with 1600 acres, have vacancies for 20 white farmers and 15 colored farmers respectively. The two associations are making cash advances for work done by the day on the big farms. Money made from selling the crop will be divided at the end of the year in accordance with the time put in by the farmers.

**Electric Service for Long Acre Section Is Considered Likely**

**Residents and V. E. P. Co. Representatives Get Together Last Week**

Representatives of the Virginia Electric and Power Company met with residents of the Long Acre section in Union Chapel Free Will Baptist church Friday for the purpose of considering the possibility of constructing a power line from Sam Beasley's home to Acre Station, providing electric current for homes on the Long Acre road.

Recorder John W. Darden, acting for the residents of the section, invited C. C. Parker and S. P. Woolford to meet with the residents to determine whether the Virginia Electric and Power Company would construct the line. More than 75 people were present at the meeting, more than the minimum number required were willing to sign contracts with the power company. It is believed that an agreement will be reached and the power firm will start work on the line shortly.

It was explained that this was solely a project of the power company and the residents of the section and was not connected with the rural electrification program sponsored by the Federal Government.

A power line already runs from Plymouth about two miles to the home of Sam Beasley, from which place the new line will start.

**Recorder's Court in Lenthy Session This Week; 9 Cases Tried**

**Two Found Guilty on Cattle-Shooting Charge; Fined \$25 Each**

In session for almost two days this week, the longest term in some time, the Washington County Recorder's Court still fell far short of the record length of five days, written into the records in 1912, when the court adjourned late one Friday afternoon after having been in session for five days. W. M. Bateman, former clerk in Federal court at Raleigh and now mayor of Roper, was recorder at that time and heard 30 cases involving persons rounded up on charges of violating the prohibition law. The session this week dealt with only 9 defendants.

Bill Daniels, 16, white, appealed from a three-month sentence or \$25 fine and costs after having been found guilty of shooting cattle belonging to Mrs. E. W. Latham while they were off her premises. James Spruill, 13, white, charged with complicity, was remanded to juvenile court.

James Langston, 32, white, found guilty of supplying the shotgun and shells for the shooting of the cattle appealed from a sentence of three months in jail or \$25 fine and costs. G. C. Spruill, 63, white, arraigned on a similar charge, was acquitted. John Hall, 38, colored, charged with drunk driving and resisting arrest, was sentenced to three months in jail, suspended upon payment of a fine of \$35 and costs and good behavior for two years, after the jury found him guilty of being drunk and resisting arrest. An appeal was noted and bond fixed at \$200.

Mamie Barnes, 39, colored, was given 12 months in the county home or ordered to pay a fine of \$75 and costs on the charge of possessing illegal whiskey. Edison Towe, 31, grocery delivery man, was found not guilty of transporting whiskey, while Zion Jennette, 32, was assessed with the costs of the court after officers found evidence of whiskey in a motor vehicle in which the two were riding last Saturday night.

Mrs. Isabel C. Pinegan, white, charged with defacing property of Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Patrick, which she occupies, will face the court next week.

**600 Applications for Benefits Under Soil Program Are Made**

**Expect At Least 300 More To Be Made; Number Is 100 Larger Than in 1938**

Close to 600 applications for benefits under the 1938 soil conservation program have been made by Washington County farmers in the last few days, according to County Agent W. V. Hays, who says the applications this year will surpass in number those filed last year.

Last season there was a total of 800 applications filed, and this year there will be over 900, according to the county agent, who hopes the payments will not be delayed so long in reaching the farmers this year.

No definite figures were available today, as the tabulations have not been completed by employees in the county office, but it is believed that more than 250 have signed application blanks in Scuppernong Township, 75 in Skinnerville, 250 in Lees Mill, and a few in Plymouth.

The blanks for the farmers are available now in the agent's office, and a number of farmers are dropping into the office daily now to sign them. Mr. Hays hopes to have a majority of the applications from this office filed with the Raleigh office by February 1.

Mr. Hays said the first county to get most of their applications into the Raleigh office will have the right of way over the others, and he is making every effort to finish the applications from this county and have them in early. Some have already been forwarded to Raleigh.

It is estimated that about \$70,000 in soil conservation benefit payments were received in this county last year, and the amount this year is expected to exceed this amount, as there are about 100 more applications than before.

**Blues Down Whites In No-Stars Game**

Jack Peal's Blues defeated P. W. Brown's Whites, 20 to 19, in the No-Stars basketball game at the Plymouth High School gym Wednesday night, when fun and merriment dominated skill and the fat and funny men raced up and down the court.

Peal was assisted by Tom Brown, Jack Weede, Jack Read, Mack Marrow, Eddie McNair, while H. A. Liverman, John Davenport, Grayson Everett and Joe Leggett helped P. W. Brown. There were a number of substitutes used.

The sponsoring ninth grade, under C. O. Armstrongs, netted over \$7 profit, and 350-pound John Davenport featured the playing and danced between halves for the entertainment of the crowd.

**Bill Provides 4-Year Term Office for Register Deeds**

The term of office of the register of deeds of Washington County would be increased from two to four years under the terms of bill introduced in the lower house of the legislature last week by Representative Wilbur M. Darden. This bill would put the register of deeds term on the same basis as clerk of the court, sheriff and coroner, terms of the last two offices having been raised to four years by a constitutional amendment approved at the last general election.

According to Mr. Darden, the legislature of 1937 extended the terms of office for registers of deeds in many counties to four years, but this county was not included in the bills passed then.

The bill was sent to the house committee on cities, counties and towns, and it is expected to be passed without opposition in both houses, possibly by the last of the week.

It is understood that the bill is so worded as to provide the four-year term immediately, obviating the necessity of the incumbent, Mrs. Mary Smith Cahoon, entering the primary and election again before 1942. The attorney general has ruled that the 4-year term of office for sheriffs and coroners became effective at the last election, and it was intended by the local bill introduced last week to have the same ruling apply to the register's office in this county.

**Seek Appropriation For Pettigrew Park**

**Would Build Cabins, Water System, Make Other Improvements**

**Citizens of Section Urged To Use Influence in Securing Appropriation**

Public-spirited citizens and organizations in this section should impress upon the house appropriations committee of the legislature their increased interest in Pettigrew Park at Lake Phelps, according to W. R. Hampton, member of the State Board of Conservation and Development.

**Organize Sea Scouts Here This Week; Dr. Papineau Is Skipper**

**Charter To Be Presented on February 22; For Boys of 15 Years and Older**

Professional Scout Leaders on their monthly visit here Tuesday gave emphasis not only to starting training of leaders but to the organization of Sea Scouting. Sea Scouting is the oldest boy program of Scouting. While Tom Brown is Cubmaster with the 9, 10 and 11 year old boys, and the Rev. N. A. Taylor is Scoutmaster of Scouts 12, 13 and 14 years of age, Dr. A. Papineau will be Skipper of the Sea Scout Ship for boys who are 15 years of age and older and who are already of first-class rank.

Friday night the Rev. N. A. Taylor will approach the American Legion, asking that organization to sponsor the Washington County District's first Sea Scout ship.

A short organization meeting was held Tuesday in the Scout room in the basement of the courthouse, with the Skipper and a few of the boys who want to be Sea Scouts. Scouts of the Roper and Creswell units who are 15 years and older and who are of first class rank will also be eligible to become charter members if they communicate this week with the district chairman at his office in Plymouth or in Roper. Dr. Papineau, the skipper, will soon announce his choice of first mate and second mate.

The charter will be presented on February 22nd, when the Sea Scouts and their dads, along with all Cubs and Scouts in the district, attend the Scout, Cub, Sea Scout and Dad banquet. At this time Scout Executive Signwald, his assistant, George Thomason, and Dr. Maynard Fletcher, a vice president of the council, will be on a program that should be inspirational as well as instructive.

The state, through the board of which Mr. Hampton is a member, has acquired about 200 acres of land, including that on which is located the Collins and Pettigrew houses, from the Farm Security Administration on a 99-year lease, which is regarded as almost the same as a grant. It is now up to the state to have the park property developed, some of the most important needs being a water supply approved by the health department, erection of cabins for those who might wish to remain overnight or spend week-ends at the lake, restoration of the houses as shrines, and attention given to the historic cedars and sycamores that line the driveways, as well as picnic areas being provided, and other such things.

It was pointed out by Mr. Hampton that the lake shores and surrounding land were very interesting from a botanical standpoint, as there are more different type plants to be found in the Lake Phelps area than there are in the whole of continental Europe.

Conveniences that pass the board of health's standards must be provided for those who would come from far and near to hunt, swim, fish, visit the historical places, study plant life around the lake, and for any other purpose which might bring them to the new park.

A fire tower will soon be erected for the dual purpose of providing fire protection and to make possible a view of the surrounding territory for those who wish to climb the look-out post.

There are only two state parks in eastern North Carolina, one being at Fort Macon, near Morehead City, and the other Pettigrew Park, according to Mr. Hampton, who says he hopes the park in this county will come to be as well developed as the Morrow Mountain Park in Stanley County, where \$100,000 was spent in improving the place. Of this amount, about \$35,000 each was contributed by the county, state and federal governments.

Mr. Hampton said that civic organizations and public-spirited citizens could help by using their influence to persuade the legislators of the importance and usefulness of this park. If funds are to be obtained to develop this project, the men and women in this section must demonstrate their interest, as the budget commission has pared down to a very low maximum the money to be appropriated for this kind of work.

**Fire Department Is Organized at Village**

Organization of a volunteer fire department for the village occupied by officials and employees of the North Carolina Pulp Company was started Monday night at a meeting of the Village Club, when M. J. Poik was named chief and Mr. Ward assistant chief. A large number of the village residents attended the club meeting, which held in the conference room at the plant. It was also decided to continue the beautification work in the village by setting out additional trees along the streets.

Plans were made for drills by the fire company, composed of the male population of the village, and alarm bells will be installed on each of the two house houses there. Services of the Plymouth Fire Department are available at all times in case of fire in the village, and the local company will cooperate with the recently organized department in every way possible.

**R. C. Holland Talks At Meeting of Farm Bureau Wednesday**

**Membership Is Increased To 140 With Close of Campaign This Week**

Overlapping and duplication of activities in the extension service at State College and the Department of Agriculture was charged in a speech made by R. C. Holland, of Edenton, president of the North Carolina Peanut Stabilization Cooperative, to the 100 members of the Washington County Farm Bureau at a barbecue supper in the agriculture building Wednesday night.

At this meeting, held to celebrate the completion of a membership campaign, it was announced that the Farm Bureau now has about 140 members, against less than 30 last year. B. A. Williams, president of the bureau, presided, and County Agent W. V. Hays introduced Mr. Holland. There was a tie between the groups led by W. D. Phelps and A. J. Riddle in securing the 140 members listed in the organization.

Mr. Holland said that he testified before a committee of the legislature this week, telling them that his organization was opposed to any additional tax on fertilizer, seed and feed, to continue the duplication of services by the State Department of Agriculture and the Extension Service, the overlapping having been suspected for the last 20 years.

The speaker also told the farmers that he appeared before a legislative committee in opposition to further increase of the revenue license and privilege tax on vending machines, on the grounds that peanuts sold in these machines helped to increase the distribution and consumption of peanuts, one of the main objectives of his organizations.

Mr. Holland said there was little doubt in his mind but that peanuts had paid 85 per cent of the mortgages paid off at banks in the last two or three years, as the farmers use the money from tobacco, cotton and corn to pay for seed, feed, fertilizer and to get their debts arranged so that later in the year the income from peanuts would provide the funds for discharging mortgages.

Regarding the new wage and hour law, Mr. Holland advised the farmers that if they did not stand together and oppose in concerted action anything detrimental to the farmers, that the money from the new taxes would not be paid by the consumer but would be subtracted from the price paid the farmers for their products.

Explaining how the \$65 a ton price on peanuts was arranged, the speaker said an agreement was made with leaders of the Georgia farmers not to support a higher price as the producers in that section could make money at \$65 a ton for peanuts.

Emphasizing the power of organization in dealing with the peanut problem Mr. Holland told of visiting the Nation's Capital and the attention that was paid to Farm Bureau officials by politicians there. He said only recently a Virginia cooperative committee met with the peanut shellers to consider the peanut problem from the standpoint of both the miller and the farmer.

**PWA Delay Prevents Use of New School**

**North Carolina Pulp Company Has Part In Safety Contests**

**Entered in National Safety Council and Inter-Company Contests**

Besides being entered in the contest sponsored by the paper and pulp section of the National Safety Council, of which it is a member, the North Carolina Pulp Company is also competing in an inter-company contest sponsored by the Kleckhefer Container Company, and plans are now being formulated to conduct departmental safety contests in the plant here, it was learned this week from General Manager O. H. Cox.

**Requirements Have Been Complied With But Delay Continues**

**Creswell Building Completed And Ready for Occupancy But Can't Be Used**

Unable to understand the continuing delay in receiving funds from the Public Works Administration to conclude payments to the contractor and have the new school building at Creswell released to it for use, the Washington County Board of Education is making every effort to have the government agency complete its part in the deal, it was learned this week from H. H. McLean, superintendent of schools, last Friday communicated with the Raleigh office and learned that approval for payment had been sent from there, but that it had never left that office for the central headquarters, from where final approval must be received before payment can be made.

In the meantime, local officials have about exhausted their patience, as a technicality which held up payment the first of the year has been rectified, but still the money which was to be paid by the PWA has not been received.

Mr. McLean said this county had already paid its part, and complied with every requirement made by the PWA officials. The contracting firm which erected the building will turn over the keys to the school authorities only after the final payment has been made.

As things now stand, several hundred children are being forced to attend classes in an uncomfortable and condemned building, while right beside stands an \$82,000 structure complete in every detail, but which cannot be used on account of the unexplained delay of PWA officials.