

Vernon Early, of Ahoskie is now associated with Manager F. L. Modin in conducting the business of the M. H. Mitchell Furniture Company here.

Willford M. Smith, a representative of the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers, spoke to a large crowd of employees of the North Carolina Pulp Company in the Masonic Hall here Wednesday night.

Coach John Weaver said at noon today that the boys' and girls' basketball game with Elizabeth City here would be played on Tuesday night of next week instead of Friday night, as carried elsewhere in this paper. The time is 7:30 at night.

Miss Nellie Tarkenton, a teacher in the Plymouth High Schools, told of seeing a diver feed bottle-nosed dolphins in a pool at Marineland, Fla., where she went on a visit during the holidays.

A meeting of the Plymouth Merchants Association will be held in the Town Council chamber Friday night at 7:30. Members of the organization are urged by J. R. Manning, president, to attend, as several matters of importance to the merchants will be discussed.

Mrs. Maude Cox, of Mackeys, is now connected with the Virginia Dare Beauty Shop here. Miss Virginia Cahoon, the owner, said that Mrs. Cox had had several years' experience in beauty parlor work in Rocky Mount and Plymouth.

Mrs. Ruth Graziola, of Mount Olive, has succeeded Mrs. Charlie V. Bass as health nurse for Washington County in the district health office here. Mrs. Bass moved to Kinston, to which her husband, a state highway worker, has been transferred from here.

Clearance sales with many values for the bargain hunters are being held by the Norman Furniture Company and the Fashion Shop here. These firms are making an effort to clear their shelves of much merchandise at low prices.

William H. Corbitt, who has been in this section for sometime, has been purchasing sweet potatoes in large lots for a Wilmington firm, which sells them to large canneries, from which come the cans of candied yams.

County Home and Farm Shows \$735 Profit in Past Year

Report Made by L. L. Basnight To County Board At Meet Monday

Reports circulating in the county that the Washington County home and farm was being operated at a loss were proven unfounded at the meeting of the commissioners Monday, when L. L. Basnight, keeper, showed the board that the home and farm had a net profit for 1939 of \$734.46.

Mr. Basnight, in a prepared statement, reported to the commissioners that the cash crops sold from the farm last year netted \$431.11; other produce used in the county home was valued at \$1,783; and he now has on hand 200 bushels of soybeans, valued at \$180; making the total income \$2,394.11. Total disbursements were listed at \$1,661.65; leaving a net profit of \$734.46 for the institution.

In addition to this, it is known that Mr. Basnight took care of inmates at an average cost of \$14.77 per month, while the state average person for support in county homes is \$17.11. Mr. and Mrs. Basnight are known to be very kind and helpful to the aged people at the home, which provides steam heat and all modern conveniences. Several inmates have had an opportunity to leave and draw about \$17 a month in social security benefits, but they prefer to remain at the home.

The county commissioners appointed J. R. Campbell, Ludford McNair and J. H. Leggett to investigate the damage caused by dogs killing the hogs of J. T. McNair.

The board also received reports of the county physician, health officer, and county agent.

Weather of Past Few Days Is Declared To Be Coldest in County in Four Years

Though it was some warmer in Washington County today, there were forecasts of probable snow for Friday and Saturday to climax one of the coldest fortnights which has been experienced in this section in at least four years, according to those who keep up with the weather.

Wednesday was said to have been one of the coldest days in four years, with early morning temperatures reported in Plymouth at 19 degrees. L. E. Hassell said that a thermometer at his farm near Roper showed 17 degrees at this time.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Sexton Parents of First 1940 Baby Born in This County

So far as could be learned from physicians in Plymouth, the eight pound boy who came to the Roper home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wilbert Sexton on Monday at 2:10 p. m., was the first and only child to be born on the 1940 New Year's Day in Washington County. The youngster was named William Lawrence Sexton.

Mr. and Mrs. Sexton are both natives of this county. With the arrival of the New Year's boy, they have two children. Dr. Claudius McGowan was the attending physician. Mr. Sexton is employed at the North Carolina Pulp Company plant here.

Dr. McGowan said that this was the first occasion on which he was the attending physician at the birth of a child on New Year's Day, although he has assisted in the delivery of two boys on Christmas Day and one child on February 29 in the 22 years he has been practicing medicine in the county. The doctor estimated that he has attended the birth of 1,320 babies since he came to the county 22 years ago. The physician recalled the first mother he ever attended in the county was Mrs. Joe Blount, near Mackeys. The baby born at that time is now a grown young man in the army.

Cold Weather During Past Few Days Has Slowed Up Construction Work Here

Urges Precautions To Prevent Thefts

With repeated robberies occurring in Plymouth during the last few days, Chief of Police P. W. Brown urges the merchants to take every precaution possible against perpetrators of the outrages by securely closing their places of business each night.

Reinforcement should be made at windows and bars placed against doors and other precautions taken to prevent entrance being forced from the outside, according to the veteran officer.

He also said that the police force would redouble its vigilance and that special efforts are being made to prevent any further robberies.

Convictions Secured In All Seven Cases Tried by Recorder

New Year Begun With 100 Per Cent Record at Tuesday Session

Verdicts of guilty were handed down by Recorder John W. Darden in the seven cases that came before him Tuesday morning, as Prosecuting Attorney W. Ronald Gaylord started the new year off with a 100 per cent record of convictions in the first seven cases.

Noah Blount, colored, was found guilty of being drunk and disorderly in the Plymouth Theatre during the holidays. Choice of 30 days or payment of the costs was offered the defendant as judgment, and he is making an effort to raise the amount of the costs.

Duane S. Swain, white, guilty of reckless driving in the town of Plymouth, was ordered to pay the costs and a \$25 fine. His driver's license was revoked for three months.

Frank Pope, alias Frank Dunn, colored, was given three months on the roads on a charge of vagrancy.

Joe Boston and Willie Boston were found guilty of assaulting Joe Hedgebeth, colored, with a club. Each was assessed \$5 fine and the costs and required to pay the Virginia Electric and Power Company \$12 for the meter they broke during the fight.

L. B. Peel and Nathan Stokes were charged with assault with a deadly weapon and affray. Stokes was required to pay half the costs and Peel was fined \$10 and ordered to pay half the costs.

Mary Webb, colored, found guilty of being a nuisance and also assaulting another person, was given two months at the county home.

Lonnie Wilkins, colored, found guilty of an assault on Mary Webb, colored, was given six months, suspended on condition that he report good behavior for two years and pay the costs.

The lecture will be jointly sponsored by the school, the Lions Club, and the parent-teacher association.

However, Work Is Still Going Forward as Rapidly As Practical Over 125 Now on Job

Cold weather, which slowed up the pouring of cement, has retarded the progress being made on the expansion program underway now at the plant of the North Carolina Pulp Company here, but work is moving along as rapidly as possible on the estimated \$1,200,000 worth of contracts let for the work here.

As far as could be learned, the construction program now includes erection of a bleach building, a bleach-liquor building, beater room, machine building, boiler room, nine tanks, additions to wet-room building, and installation of machinery and equipment in the new structures.

Excavations are now being made and concrete footings poured by the William Muirhead Construction Company, of Durham, for the machine building, running from northwest to southeast, which measures 486 by 90 feet. The northwest fence has been removed, and the foundation work is being extended 45 feet beyond the line of the old fence across the road into the forest land adjoining the old road.

Brick work has been started around the steel frame on the bleach building. Seventeen men are employed in this work, and additional workmen will be required when the brick work starts soon on the bleach-liquor building. Much of the steel work on both structures has been completed by employees of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, which is providing the steel and erecting it. At the present time the steel workers are idle.

Today there were about 75 men working on the foundations and footings for the new buildings being built by the Muirhead company, and about 17 on the brickwork, contract for which was let to the same company recently.

The filtration plant being constructed by the Rohleder Construction Company, of Philadelphia, is progressing well, but they have been handicapped in pouring the cement walls by the recent cold weather. This company hopes to have its project completed shortly if the weather becomes more favorable.

R. D. Lambert, construction foreman for the Muirhead concern, said that if the weather turned warmer, permitting rapid pouring of the cement, that the footings for the machine room and boiler room would be completed by January 25.

Highway Safety Topic of Lecture

A lecture on highway safety will be given at the Plymouth High School Monday night, January 15, at 7:30 by Mrs. Bill Flythe, of Raleigh, a representative of the safety division of the State Highway Patrol. She will explain the methods being taken by highway officials to promote safety on the highways and will also tell of the ways that accidents on the highways can be prevented.

Marine Corps Is Seeking Recruits in This Section

The United States Marine Corps Recruiting Service this week announced that a recruiting sergeant will be in Elizabeth City Saturday to interview young men desiring information regarding enlistment in the Marine Corps. The sergeant will be in the lobby of the post office from 9 to 11 a. m.

Interviews will also be held by the sergeant in lobbies of post offices in the following towns on the same day: Edenton, from 12:30 to 1:30 p. m.; Windsor, from 2:15 to 3:15 p. m.; Williamston, from 3:45 to 5 p. m.

Channel of Roanoke River Will Be Made Deeper Next Spring

Colonel of Army Engineers Says \$350,000 Worth of Contracts To Be Let

Contracts totalling approximately \$350,000 will be let by the War Department early in the spring for deepening the channel of Roanoke River, it was learned from Col. Geo. W. Gillette, engineer of the Wilmington District, who was here last week.

It is understood that immediately after the contracts are let by the War Department that the successful contractors will begin work on the project, which is to be completed as early as possible.

From information available, it was understood that the channel would be deepened to provide a minimum of 12 feet from the mouth to one mile beyond Williamston and from that point a 10-foot minimum depth to Palmyra. However, it is possible that the channel may be made two feet deeper than the plans now call for, in order to allow for plenty of clearance for the heavier craft expected as traffic increases on the stream.

When the project is completed, it is believed that any craft now navigating the inland waterways of the State can be operated on the Roanoke without danger of dragging the bottom.

While he was here Colonel Gillette visited W. R. Hampton, a college friend and member of the Board of Conservation and Development, and talked with him about the project and its possibilities for the section.

Additional Lights Are Installed Here

As a deterrent to burglars and robbers who work under cover of darkness, a crew of construction workers of the Virginia Electric and Power Company erected seven new street lights in alleys and back lots in the business section here Tuesday and Wednesday.

The new lights, current for which will be paid for by the town, were located as follows: 4 on the waterfront at the rear of Water Street stores; 1 in the alley back of the Owens Buildings on Water and Washington Streets; 1 in the post office alley; and 1 at the rear of the B. G. Campbell wholesale grocery establishment.

W. L. Glover, foreman of the line crew which erected the poles, said each pole would have a 250-candlepower light. There were 13 men in the crew and nine new poles were erected, two of them being replacements.

Superior Court To Convene Monday

With 43 criminal and civil cases on docket, the Washington County Superior Court will open here Monday, with Judge Q. K. Nimocks, of Fayetteville, presiding over the two-week mixed term.

Court observers predict that unless some of the cases are continued for one reason or another, the court will need almost the entire two weeks to clear the docket.

The first three days have been allotted for the trial of criminal cases, but it is believed it will take longer than this to dispose of the cases on docket.

Woman's Club Meeting Is Postponed for Week

Mrs. W. A. Davidson, president of the local senior Women's Club, announced today that the meeting set for tomorrow, January 5, had been postponed until Friday of next week, January 12. The postponement was made due to the absence from town of several members, with the unusually cold weather of the past few days being a contributing cause.

Says Car Drivers Must Dim Lights

While checking cars for their 1940 license plates, Corporal T. B. Brown, of the State Highway Patrol, said that he had observed many drivers who fail to dim their lights when approaching other motor vehicles, and the officer said he was going to start work on these traffic-law violators.

Only a few persons who have been operating their cars without the new tags were cited during the first three days of the week, but the patrolman said he would be getting down to this business in east by the week-end.

He also added that those who failed to dim their lights would be arraigned before the courts for violation of this highway law.

Tobacco Allotments for Farmers Of County Are Expected To Be Approved by Middle Next Week

Auto Accidents in County Claimed Two Lives During Past Year, Record Shows

Compares With Six Deaths During Last 9 Months Of Preceding Year

Many Minor Wrecks

Automobile accidents claimed only two lives on the highways of Washington County during 1939, in comparison to six lives lost in the last nine months of 1938, according to records kept here by Corporal Tom B. Brown, of the State Highway Patrol. There was a total of \$800 in property damage done in three major accidents during the past year, as against \$900 reported for the nine months covered by the records of the years before.

Ambrose L. Owens was almost instantly killed on May 1 last year, on the highway near the Springwood Dairy. He was struck by the tongue of a trailer, which became detached from its coupling on Herman Jackson's car, operated by Grover Harrison. Damage to the vehicles involved in the accident was listed at \$250.

Joe Simpson, 36-year-old colored tenant farmer, was almost instantly killed on the night of December 25, when a car operated by Bill Darden, of Plymouth, crashed into that of Simpson's as the colored man's machine came out of a driveway onto the highway without stopping. Young Darden and Charles E. Brinn were injured and property damage was estimated at \$300 in this accident.

Three persons were injured on the Albemarle Sound bridge road last February 18, when the cars operated by George Patrick and K. S. Mitchell collided. Damage to the cars was listed at \$250 in this accident.

The highway patrolman said there had been scores of other minor accidents reported to him where the damage was less than \$50 which he did not record on his chart. None of those involved in the minor accidents was seriously injured.

Series of Robberies And Attempts Are Reported To Police

Western Union Office and Bowling Alleys Burglarized Last Week-End

Police officers today were searching for thieves who forced entrance into two business places and attempted to enter a third during the week-end.

Friday night robbers forced an entrance into the Western Union office at the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad station. Entering through a window, the intruders pried loose the money drawer so that they could get about \$10 in cash which was left in it.

Sunday night, unidentified persons broke out a rear window and entered the Plymouth Bowling Alleys building next to the Beacon office. They took out two slot machines, which they broke open and robbed of about \$30. The robbery occurred about 6 o'clock in the evening.

James Antonaider, owner of the alleys, said that he also missed a box of cigars, 3 cartons of cigarettes, 4 cartons of chewing gum, 1 pound of chewing tobacco, 5 packages of razor blades and 4 pocket combs.

Monday morning, Mrs. W. E. Waters and Mrs. J. C. Smith, owners of the Fashion Shop, discovered that efforts had been made to force open the rear door of their establishment sometime during Sunday night. The ladies believe the persons who attempted to rob the place tried to force the door open by prying it loose from the catch of the lock. However two heavy bars prevented them from gaining entrance.

Rea Appointed To School Board Here

Members of the Washington County Board of Education, in session here Wednesday approved the nomination of J. L. Rea, manager of the Blackland Experiment Station, as a member of the Plymouth school committee.

It was also decided that the old heating plant in the Creswell school would be sold, and that part of the proceeds would be used to install the radiators left from the plant in the Plymouth colored school building.

5,000 Bags Peanuts Now Stored Here

Five thousand bags of peanuts have been delivered to the government bonded warehouses operated here by J. E. Davenport and W. H. Clark under the supervision of the North Carolina Peanut Stabilization Cooperative.

Mr. Clark and Mr. Davenport explained that the peanuts were coming in gradually, but that most of the crop grown in this county was being sold through regular channels of trade.

Mr. Davenport said the grading demanded by the government agency revealed that peanuts being stored were average quality, the better grades being handled through buyers representing the cleaners in most instances.

Law Officers Think Escape Trick Would Fail If Tried Here

Similar Cells on Death Row At State Prison Opened By Two Prisoners

Sheriff J. K. Reid looked over his jail on the third floor of the courthouse building here today and ventured the prediction that the two negroes on death row in State prison at Raleigh, who escaped from their cell with Christmas twine and cardboard last week, afterwards killing a guard, could not have worked the same trick successfully in the jail here, which is constructed along the same lines.

Other officers, including Patrolman Tom Brown, supported the opinion of the sheriff. Cells in the jail here are modeled after those on death row in Central prison at Raleigh, but none of the local officers believe the methods used by the two negroes there, as described in state newspapers, would work at the jail here.

The two colored men, William Young and Clarence Rogers, of Hoke and Durham County, both charged with murder, made a desperate effort to escape from death row by inserting cardboard in the slots of the locks to prevent them from completely locking, and then lifting the latch with a piece of Christmas twine. They escaped into the corridor and pounced upon Guard J. S. Chesser, who was killed in the struggle. Their escape from the corridor was blocked by the fact that the dead guard carried no keys, and the two men returned to their cells, where they are awaiting death in the gas chamber.

State penal officials, who have inspected the jail here over a period of many years, agree with the sheriff that the cells here will hold most of the criminals committed to their keeping. During the 17 years Sheriff Reid has served the county he has never had an escape from his supposedly fire-proof escape-proof jail. He says a number of hardened criminals have told him they tried, but found it impossible to break out.

Town Council Meets Next Monday Night

The Town Council of Plymouth will hold its monthly meeting next Monday night, postponing it from the first Monday because of the New Year holiday.

Mayor B. G. Campbell urges a full attendance, as there are some important business matters scheduled for discussion.

W. Blount Rodman was named superintendent of the Sunday school to succeed W. F. Winslow, who resigned after serving in that capacity for a number of years.

Tax Listing Gets Underway in County; Early Birds To Miss Last-Minute Rush

Tax listers of Washington County were at their appointed places this week to aid property owners in listing their real estate and personal property for taxation during the month of January.

It was understood that the tax listers of the county were being kept pretty busy by those who wished to avoid the last-minute rush, which always accompanies tax listing.

Sidney A. Ward and Mrs. M. W. Spruill are at the courthouse to list the property of those living in Plym-

Final Adjustments Are Being Made by County Committee

General Reduction of 20 Per Cent of Base Acreages In Prospect

Tobacco allotments, as passed by the agricultural conservation committee for Washington County for the 1940 plantings will carry a general reduction of about 20 per cent, which farmers were advised would be necessary when the referendum was held last fall. It is expected the individual allotments will be sent to farmers in the county by the latter part of next week.

The allotments have been sent to Raleigh, where they were checked and then the totals sent to AAA officials in Washington, D. C., where they were approved. They have been returned to the office here for some adjustments to be made by the committee members, who are meeting this week to take final action on them.

County Agent W. V. Hays said today that he hoped final adjustments would be made and tabulations approved by the Raleigh office by Wednesday of next week, so that farmers in the county could make their plans for sowing tobacco beds immediately, this work usually being done in this section during the first two weeks of January.

The acreage allotment for farmers in Washington County for 1940 totals 1,052 acres, against 1,175 acres allotted for 1939.

Of the 252 allotments made by the committee here this year, there were about 50 per cent of them for the small farms. A small farm is determined by whether or not the acreage allotted it will produce more than 3,200 pounds of tobacco, and many of the small growers were given special consideration in setting up allotments, as prescribed in the 1940 regulations.

Mr. Hays said today he was well satisfied with the work of the committee, explaining that the men who worked out the allotments had a very difficult task; and it appeared now that full consideration had been given to every grower, and his individual needs and desires fairly considered so that the total allotments would be kept within reason.

In the referendum held on October 5, the growers of this county voted 97 per cent, or 345 for 11 against the control program, which carried with it the imposition of marketing quotas for 1940. It was said at that time that the maximum reductions in acreage would not be over 20 per cent of the base acreage allotted each farm.

Episcopal Church Officials Elected

Sixty communicants of Grace Episcopal church met at the church here Friday night and elected officers for the year of 1940, with the rector, Rev. Sidney Matthews, of Washington, presiding over the meeting.

H. A. Williford was named senior warden; S. A. Ward, junior warden; and R. A. Duval, secretary, with the following elected to membership on the vestry: H. A. Blount, Dr. Alban Papineau, Blount Rodman, L. C. Edenath, T. W. Earle, Zeno Lyon, C. E. Ayers, Walter P. Lloyd, and Lloyd Horton.

It was decided that lay services would be held each Sunday morning, except the second Sunday, at 11 o'clock, with Blount Rodman, Dr. A. Papineau and S. A. Ward as lay readers in charge of the services. The rector, Rev. Mr. Matthews, preaches on the second Sunday morning and on the third Sunday night of each month.

W. Blount Rodman was named superintendent of the Sunday school to succeed W. F. Winslow, who resigned after serving in that capacity for a number of years.