

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Munson and son, Gerald, of Clyde, N. Y., remarked while on a visit here last week to Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Hartung that they had enjoyed the "mild" weather while here. They explained that they had seen the thermometer 15 below zero up near the lakes.

Rehearsals have started on the senior play, "Tomboy," a comedy in three acts, which will be presented in the high school auditorium on Friday, January 26, at 8 p. m. The play shows what happens when a "Tomboy" discovers that this is a woman's world.

Frances Jones, who is seriously ill in a Rocky Mount hospital, is reported to be improving today, although she is still very sick. Her mother, Mrs. W. C. Jones, is with her. The 15-year-old popular high-school girl was given a blood transfusion Wednesday after she underwent an operation for appendicitis recently.

Invited to play golf on the local course while holding court here this week, Judge Q. K. Nimocks, of Fayetteville, said the reason he didn't play was that he wore a pair of tight-fitting shoes on one occasion and followed a match as a spectator, which gave him about enough golf to last for awhile.

Sam Adler is starting a sale during the week-end in which he plans to dispose of the men's apparel that he handles in order to devote his entire store into a ladies' ready-to-wear establishment.

The county agent's office said today that they did not have any further information about the tobacco allotments, which it was announced last week would be distributed to individual growers the latter part of this week.

In listing the officials of the Grace Episcopal Church elected recently, the Beacon last week did not carry the names of the finance committee members S. A. Ward, T. W. Edwards and Clarence Ayers.

At a meeting of officials of the Ludford Memorial Baptist Church here Wednesday night, it was decided to hold the annual spring revival for 10 days beginning on Wednesday, March 6, according to the pastor, Rev. P. B. Nickens.

Paul Sanderson has replaced Robert Dunn as driver of the Bluebird taxi here. Mr. Sanderson said that he might return to Kinston soon, but that another driver would take his place here.

Launch Campaign For Funds to Fight Infantile Paralysis

George W. Hardison Chairman for County; Names Local Chairmen

The annual drive for funds to fight infantile paralysis, usually waged in connection with the celebration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's birthday on January 30, got underway in Washington County this week with the appointment of township chairmen by Postmaster George W. Hardison, chairman of the campaign in the county.

At the beginning of the drive this year Mr. Hardison reminds prospective contributors that 50 per cent of all the funds contributed are retained by the county organization to be used in this work locally.

Last year \$39.80 was returned to Washington County to be used by the organization for the war on infantile paralysis in the county. This amount has remained on deposit in the Branch Banking and Trust Company here to be used when an occasion demands it.

Mr. Hardison pointed out that the campaign is conducted by a non-political organization and that the work is carried on for humanitarian purposes alone, with everyone urged to contribute as liberally as possible. Chairmen for the townships, as named by Mr. Hardison, follow: Plymouth and vicinity, Mrs. Walter P. Lloyd; Roper and vicinity, Mrs. Perla Bray; Creswell and vicinity, Mrs. Edgar Woodley; Mackeys and vicinity, Miss Jamie Riddick.

Contributors are urged to make their contributions through their township chairman so that proper records may be kept, and Mr. Hardison also said he hoped to exceed the amount raised last year, about \$80. The quota assigned to the county this year is \$130.

Rehoboth Church, Formed Nearly 100 Years Ago, Now Part of Roper Charge

After almost 100 years in the Creswell Methodist Protestant Church charge, the Rehoboth church, located in the Skinnerville community, was recently changed and assigned to the Pleasant Grove and Roper circuit, with the Rev. M. E. Gardner, of Roper, as pastor. The recent change in the charge was made following the union of the Methodist Protestant and Methodist Episcopal churches, effected at the joint conference held last year by the two leading denominations. Next Sunday, the Rev. M. E.

River Frozen Wednesday; Local Folks Disagree as to When It Occured Before

Cloudy and warmer is the forecast for Friday, but today none of the weather observers hereabouts was willing to predict when the three weeks spell of extremely cold weather, which has gripped this section, would terminate in a general thaw.

The past three weeks have provided one of the longest cold periods in this county for many years. Wednesday morning the Roanoke River was frozen over, with a light skim of ice extending from bank to bank. There is some disagreement as to just how long it has been since this occurred before. One man said there was a light film of ice all the way across the river in 1935, another said it froze over in 1926, but all of them agree that the "big freeze" took place during the winter of 1917.

During that first winter after this country entered the World War, the ice was thick enough to support the weight of a man, and many people walked across at that time. It was even said that the late "Captain" Charlie Weeks drove his Model T Ford all the way to Jamesville on the ice.

Ice in the river Wednesday was not very thick, and it was broken up early by the passage of two boats. Since there has been no general thaw, the damage to water pipes in many homes has not yet been realized. There has been discomfort, but little real suffering, reported by some of the poor who did not have sufficient fuel to heat their homes during the extended period of unusual weather in this section.

Superior Court Will Resume Work Friday

Forestry Meeting At School Friday

A forestry meeting will be held in the vocational agricultural class room of the Plymouth High School Friday night at 7:30. When S. F. Darden, Washington County forest warden, will discuss his work in this county. As an added attraction a silent motion picture depicting the forestry work in the State will be shown.

W. S. Moore, vocational agriculture instructor in the school will be in charge of the meeting. Mr. Moore urges those who would like for him to get them some chicks and fruit stock at a cheap price to see him about it on Friday night or as early as possible.

Robbery Here Last Month Is Solved by Arrests in Martin

Quartet Jailed at Williamson Admit Robbery of Standard Station

The robbery of the Standard Oil Company's service station here on the night of December 13 was believed solved this week, when Martin County officers arrested four persons and secured confessions to a series of robberies, including the one here. The men arrested were Dennis and Bill Wynne, young white men of Cross Roads Township, Martin County; Grandy Pemberton, of Mount Gilead, and Lorenzo Wiggins, both colored, the latter a 16-year-old Williamson boy.

Working on a tip secured by Officer J. H. Allsbrooks, of the Williamson police force, the Martin County officers picked up the young robbers one by one, questioning them separately and securing confessions that cleared up a whole series of thefts in that section as well as the one here. At a preliminary hearing in Williamson this week, the quartet was bound over for trial at the next term of superior court. After they are tried for the robberies there, it is probable that they will be brought here to answer for the service station thefts here.

The local service station was robbed of two slot machines, four automobile tires, and a quantity of cigarettes, cigars and candy, none of which was recovered. Some of the loot from the Martin County robbery was found and returned to the owners when the men were arrested.

Building and Loan Directors Meeting Wednesday Night

Directors of the Plymouth Building and Loan Association Wednesday night approved a loan to Miller Warren, who plans to construct a \$5,000 duplex apartment house on Brinkley Avenue next to the residence of E. E. Harrell.

Rehoboth Church, Formed Nearly 100 Years Ago, Now Part of Roper Charge

Gardner, of Roper, will hold the first service in the old church under the arrangement effected by the union of the two denominations. For years the Methodist Protestant congregation held services under the sponsorship of the denomination before the present church building at Rehoboth was erected in 1853, with Joseph Norman, sr., and Thomas Norman, sr., of the Skinnerville section, taking the leadership in the movement. Joseph Norman gave the tract of land on which the old church now stands.

Merchants Here Ask For Improved Bus Service to Columbia

Restoration of Midday Bus Service Sought in Movement Launched Friday

The Plymouth Merchants Association, in session here last Friday night, passed a resolution urging the Norfolk Southern Bus Corporation to restore midday bus service between Columbia and Plymouth.

It was brought out during the meeting that when the company inaugurated the new schedule for buses through here from Washington to Norfolk, the noon bus, which has been a great service to persons traveling between Columbia and Plymouth, was discontinued.

Under the new schedule a whole day is required for the round trip from Columbia to Plymouth. The morning bus leaves Columbia at 9:05 and reaches here at 10:05. There is no bus returning directly to Columbia until 9:20 at night. However, it is possible to leave here at 6:25 p. m., and by changing at Pea Ridge, get to Columbia a little over an hour later.

The merchants asserted that the present schedule tended to drive business to towns across the Albemarle Sound, as better service was given in that direction from down the county than that to and from Plymouth.

The merchants are asking for restoration of the bus which left here at 11:40 for Columbia, returning at 1:50 p. m.

Grand Jury Should Present Violations Known To Members

Nimocks Says Presentments Should Be Made on Own Volition

"As the fountain head and source of criminal law, the grand jury is an integral part of the machinery of the law, and the peace, good order and morality of Washington County depends upon you," Judge Q. K. Nimocks, of Fayetteville, told the 18 men who will serve in the capacity of grand jurors for the January term of court which opened here Monday.

The jurist pointed out that he had no "pet theories" regarding enforcement of the law, as one part of the statute is equally important with another. "One duty of the grand jury that is growing obsolete, he said, is that of making presentments and it is becoming so because of non-use. "As you come from the various sections of the county, it is impossible for the law to be consistently violated without your knowledge, and your sworn duty is to present through the grand jury to the court those you see and those you have knowledge of who violate the law in any form."

The jurist pointed out that this was a responsibility that could not be shifted, "and you can not prosecute your enemies and shield your friends because the solemn oath you took would forbid this and you could not do this and uphold the law." In closing the jurist called attention to the fact that justices of the peace should make reports on the information of each case they handle to the clerk of the court.

He also instructed the grand jury to inspect the county home, school buses, offices of public officials, jail, and school buildings and not to fail to censure any person who is incompetent in office and not fear to praise the officers who are filling their places meritoriously.

The judge also asked the jurors to investigate the jail to determine whether or not there is a separate compartment for the placing of minors under 16 years of age so that youngsters of this age may not be forced into contact with older and hardened criminals.

Who Was Hunting, Bear or the Man?

Willie Ambrose, of the Newlands section of Washington County, told W. H. Clark, of Plymouth, a story of the bear that bit the man in the Creswell section some time ago and Mr. Clark relayed the story to the press this week.

The way Mr. Clark understood the event as told to him by Mr. Ambrose was on this wise: A hunter stepped out of his car to follow the dogs on a hunt, and while he was standing with his back toward the woods, a bear came up and bit the hunter's leg as he scrambled for his weapon.

The bear then took to the forest with the pack of dogs close to his heels and it was reported that eventually the animals lost the trail and Old Bruin continued on his way. Meantime, the injured hunter hid himself to a physician to have his injured leg dressed. Mr. Clark said Mr. Ambrose did not mention the name of the unfortunate hunter.

Property Owners in County Are Listing Property Faster Than Usual This Year

Property owners in Washington County today were listing their real estate and personal property with the tax lists in the various townships much faster than was the case last year, but with only 17 more days to go, there are still hundreds who have not yet recorded their holdings as of January 1st.

Plymouth Township was probably leading the other districts, with an estimated 250 persons having visited the courthouse, where Mrs. M. W. Spruill is list taker for the town and Sidney A. Ward for the county. Mr. Ward estimated there were about 2,000 tracts of real property to be listed by about 1,200 owners in the Township, with about 20 per cent on the books thus far.

Reports from other parts of the county indicate that the other list-takers, including E. M. Chesson, of Lees Mills; W. W. White, of Skinnerville; and P. B. Belanga, of Scuppernon, are getting along much faster this year than they did during the first 11 days of last April, when 1939 listing was underway.

County Tax Supervisor E. F. Swain said today that all persons who owned personal property, especially automobiles, should be sure to list their property before the lists closed; otherwise, they will be penalized. Special efforts are being made this year to get the name of every property owner in the county on the tax books.

First Auto Fatality of 1940 Occurs Monday

Roy Alexander Dies When Car Leaves Road, Crashes Tree

Car Completely Demolished In Accident Near Roper Late Monday

Washington County had its first highway fatality of the new year last Monday night, when an automobile operated by Roy Alexander, 33-year-old white man of Roper, swerved from Highway No. 64 about a mile and a half west of Roper and crashed into a tree, resulting in the death of the well-known employee of the North Carolina Pulp Company who was riding alone in the car at the time.

Corporal T. B. Brown, of the State Highway Patrol, and Coroner W. H. Peele investigated the accident, and it was agreed that the machine must have been traveling at a high rate of speed when it left the road on the left side, struck one tree and then crashed into another. The second tree, said to have been about 10 inches in diameter, was uprooted by the force of the impact and the car almost totally demolished.

Officers said the accident occurred about 10:45 Monday night, and when they arrived at the scene the young man was still breathing although he died about 20 minutes later before the arrival of a wrecker, which was used to lift the machine from the body of Mr. Alexander.

The victim was the son of Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Alexander, of near Roper, who are well known throughout the county. Besides his parents, Mr. Alexander is survived by his widow, the former Miss Merriell Norman, and one small child. He also leaves two brothers, Tom and Grady Alexander, and five sisters: Mrs. Robert Roughton, of Washington County; Mrs. Louis Temple, of Portsmouth; Mrs. Fred Smith, of Creswell; Mrs. Mary Garner, of Washington County; and Mrs. Nannie McCay, of Wallace town, Va.

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon at the Scuppernon Christian church, with the Rev. L. B. Bennett conducting the last rites, assisted by the Rev. E. O. Respass. Interment took place in a cemetery near the church.

Local Box and Panel Firm Operating at 60 Per Cent of Capacity

Business 30 Per Cent Better Than Year Ago, According To Mr. Still

Business is about 30 per cent better this year with the Plymouth Box & Panel Company here than it was at the same time last year, it was learned today from E. F. Still, president.

Mr. Still said this particular period of the year was usually just an average time in the plywood box and panel business but that this year the furniture factories were finding business better and they were in turn keeping the panel makers busy.

This week there are 378 persons employed at the plant here, the minimum wage being \$12.60 weekly. This figure, however, is not an index to the total payroll. Mr. Still said, as the wage paid workers varies considerably between the skilled and unskilled classes. He did not divulge the amount of the total weekly payroll.

The plant is operating about 60 per cent of its capacity, it was said, not counting Sundays, on which day the plant is never operated. The plant is now operating on two shifts of 42 hours each weekly.

The local plant was originally valued at \$1,000,000, making it one of the largest of its kind in the country, and since the new machinery was installed there a few years ago, it is generally regarded as one of the best equipped anywhere.

Town Council in Meeting Monday

The Town Council of Plymouth last Monday night appropriated \$25 to be donated on the purchase of a bass horn for the Plymouth High School Band.

The board appointed A. J. Riddle and P. W. Brown to investigate the cost and materials necessary for laying off a street on the property of T. C. Burgess connecting Latham Lane and Third Street. Such a street will probably have to be graded and drains laid.

Two lots on Jefferson Street, formerly owned by Mrs. Griffin Norman, will be taken over by the town for the taxes due, and the town attorney was requested to look into this matter.

Proposal To Change Highway Numbers Meeting Opposition

Only Change Wanted Is One To Bring U. S. 17 Through Here

Opposition is being manifested here by some civic-minded persons to be a request received by the State Highway and Public Works Commission to change to No. 32 the numbers of highways in this section directing tourists from Washington over the Albemarle Sound bridge to Edenton and Suffolk.

The request received by the commission would make the following roads be changed to N. C. No. 32: No. 97 from Douglas Cross Roads to Plymouth; No. 64 to Sound bridge; No. 172 to Edenton; No. 32 from Edenton to Suffolk.

John W. Darden, secretary of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, says reports were that the request to the commission, which would route traffic by Edenton to Suffolk, came from Edenton citizens but public denial of this has been made by some prominent Edenton citizens.

Services Are Announced By Rev. Wood Gaither

Creswell.—The Rev. Wood Gaither announces the following calendar of his Sunday services:

11 a. m., St. Andrew's Church, Columbia.

7:30 p. m., Christ Church, Creswell.

Galilee Mission will continue to have Sunday school each Sunday afternoon during the winter.

January 31st Is Final Date for Making Applications for 1939 Cotton Payments

The closing date for the filing of applications for the 1939 cotton price adjustment payment is January 31, it was announced today by County Agent W. V. Hays, who urges all farmers entitled to do so to be sure they have signed their applications and made themselves eligible for the payments.

Rate Reductions For V. E. P. Customers In Effect January 15

Rates Apply to Residential, Commercial and Hot-Water-Heater Users

A new schedule of rates ordered last Thursday by the Virginia Electric and Power Company will effect savings ranging from \$35,000 to \$40,000 monthly for eastern North Carolina light and power customers, it was unofficially learned here today following the issuance of a statement announcing the lower rate costs. The new schedule, recognized as one of the lowest, if not the lowest, in North Carolina, becomes effective on the fifteenth of this month. It is understood that the adjustment provides a uniform rate throughout the company's entire operating system, giving the small user at the rural cross road the same advantage when it comes to buying light and power as is afforded the large user in the big city.

The new residential rate is five cents for the first 60 kilowatt hours, 3 1/2 cents for the next 100 and one and one-half cents for any and all excess as compared under the old rate with 5 1/2 cents for the first 60 kilowatts, 3 1/2 cents for the next 60 kilowatts, 2 cents for the next 60 and one and one-half cents for the excess.

Owners of hot water heaters will receive a flat reduction of 50 cents. The commercial rate, starting at 5 1/2 cents under the old schedule, will be reduced to 5 cents under the new. The small customer, using around 600 kilowatt hours a month, will see his bill drop from around \$27.75 under the old schedule to about \$26.50 under the new, a saving of \$1.25.

The rate reduction is about the tenth granted one type or another or all its customers by the Virginia Electric and Power Company since it entered this territory nearly thirteen years ago. The company serves this North Carolina territory: Halifax, Northampton, part of Edgecombe, Hertford, Bertie, Gates, Chowan, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Currituck, Dare, Martin, Washington and Tyrrell counties.

No Indictments Are Considered by Jury At Court This Week

No Presentments Returned; Recommend Repairs To Several Schools

For the first time in many years, the grand jury for a term of Washington County Superior Court did not consider any bills of indictment, nor did they make any presentments, during their two days of service here this week.

The group visited the schools, jails, prison camp, county home, and other public institutions and for the most part found everything in order. However, they did recommend the repairs to following school buildings: Cherry white school, repairs to porch; Brooks colored, repairs to porch and replacement of window panes; Cherry colored, roof and windows need repairing; Sound Side colored, roof repairs; Backwoods colored, roof repairs, porch and floor; Roper colored, repairs to first and second story floors; Macedonia colored, repairs to roof, porch and steps.

The school buses had been examined the week prior to Patrolman Tom B. Brown, and they were found in good condition by both the patrolman and the grand jury. The grand jury found the county home, all, courthouse and other public buildings in excellent condition.

An examination of the records of Auditor E. J. Spruill revealed that all justices of the peace in the county except two had made their reports. Foreman, with the following members, composing the remainder of the jury: Hilton Comstock, A. R. Watson, S. L. Davenport, T. S. Lucas, E. M. Smith, J. F. Carter, Leon Alexander, Dennis A. Phelps, L. E. Ambrose, D. W. Furlough, Earl Furlough, A. L. Holmes, Claude Brinn, H. L. Browning, H. J. Bateman, T. L. Williams, and Garney Bateman.

January 31st Is Final Date for Making Applications for 1939 Cotton Payments

Most of the applications from farmers of Washington County have already been signed and some payments made, as is evidenced by the fact that to date checks totaling \$12,102.92 have been received and distributed to farmers in the county, according to the county agent.

However, Mr. Hays said, there are a few applications as yet unsigned, and any farmer in doubt as to whether he has made application should inquire about the matter at the county office at once. Every assistance will be given to see that all entitled to the payments get them.