

P. M. Arps and C. C. Craft each killed four rabbits and a ninth was found dead from burns, as the result of a "rabbit killing" on the farm of W. T. Freeman near here Wednesday afternoon, when brush was set afire to burn off a field, forcing the rabbits out into the open. Mr. Arps also killed a large owl.

Miss Elizabeth Campbell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Campbell, has been added to the staff of Mrs. Mary F. Darden, home demonstration agent, as office assistant, through an arrangement with the National Youth Administration.

Auditor E. J. Spruill thumbed through the election laws passed by the last session of the North Carolina General Assembly and found where the pay for judges of election had been increased from \$3 to \$4 per day and that of registrars from \$3 to \$5 per day.

Mrs. Bill Flythe, field representative of the North Carolina Highway Safety Division, while here Tuesday, lavished praise for the band, glee club and general activities of the local school following a visit to the institution in connection with her work.

It's a little early to start worrying about it right now, but a representative of the Internal Revenue Service of the Treasury Department of the United States will be at the post office here on Tuesday, February 27, to assist taxpayers in filing their income tax returns.

Dr. Bennett Stephenson, of Roanoke Rapids, a former resident of Plymouth, was here this week with his wife attending to some business matters. Dr. Stephenson, who attended the local school, has been a practicing physician in Roanoke Rapids for three years.

J. E. Davenport, tax collector of Washington County, today reminds delinquent taxpayers that penalties on unpaid 1939 taxes would start on February 1. He urges all those who have failed to pay their taxes so far to see him at once and arrange to take care of their accounts so as to avoid the penalties, which are mandatory under the state law.

About 70 automobile plates for the Town of Plymouth have been sold so far by Chief of Police P. W. Brown, Rev. N. A. Taylor, J. R. Manning and others, but there are still the remainder of the 250 originally bought left. The money raised is to be used for the band.

Firemen answered an alarm from the home of Paul Faute Wednesday afternoon. A small fire in a rear room of the house was quickly extinguished. Little or no damage was done.

Two Members Local Band Are Chosen for Concert by All-Stars

To Play in Greenville Friday Night; Other News of Band Activities

Two members of the Plymouth High School Band, Mary Lillian Campbell, clarinetist, and Brinson Cox, sousaphonist, will be included in the 65-piece Eastern Carolina All-Star Band which will give a concert at Greenville Friday night.

Participation in this concert will be of great value to the two local representatives, as the band will play all of the state contest numbers in classes C and D, Director L. W. Zeigler said.

Mr. Zeigler is now arranging two selections to play at the district contest, which is to be held at Greenville on March 29.

New students who are taking lessons preparing to enter the band during the second semester include Eunice Gray Holliday, alto saxophone; Marvin Brown, bass; Marie Davenport, clarinet; Roy Manning, trombone; Fannie Lou Winslow, bell lyre; and Walter Paramore, cornet.

The band members and Director L. W. Zeigler express their appreciation to the following for contributions toward the purchase of a new bass horn: American Legion, \$25; Town of Plymouth \$25; Lions Club, \$15; Young Woman's Club, \$5; Senior Woman's Club, \$5; and Mrs. B. G. Campbell, \$3. A total of \$100 is needed for the down payment on the horn, and it is hoped the amount can be raised shortly.

Sweet Potatoes May Bring Farmers More Money Than Tobacco This Year

There is a possibility that sweet potatoes may produce a better income for the farmer this year than tobacco, according to County Agent W. V. Hays, who heard specialists at State College say last week that half a yield from the allotted tobacco acreage would still be too much tobacco. Among those in the county who are considering the production of sweet potatoes for commercial purposes are W. H. Gurkin, A. J. Eiddle and Ira J. Alligood. Through the cooperation of these men Mr. Hays has been working to se-

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Resources of Local Building and Loan Association Doubled During Past Year

The assets and liabilities of the Plymouth Building and Loan Association for the year ending December 31, 1939, were double those of the preceding year, according to figures contained in the sworn statement of conditions prepared by Secretary and Treasurer M. W. Spruill for the State Insurance Commissioner.

The report made shortly after the conclusion of the first year's operations, prepared December 31, 1938, showed total assets and liabilities of \$11,461.70; while the statement of condition on December 31, 1939, shows total assets and liabilities of \$22,805.29.

A striking feature of the report this year is the growth of undivided

profits from \$147.70 on December 31, 1938, to \$852.27 a year later. Officers of the organization are especially proud of the mortgage loans made by the association, totaling \$21,997.72, on which shareholders are paying installments. These loans are secured by first mortgages on the local improved real estate, and in no case does the amount of the loan exceed 70 per cent of the appraised value of the property. The loans have made it possible for a number of borrowers to build or buy their own homes, while others have made extensive repairs to their old homes through the aid furnished by the association.

The organization now has \$18,253 in installment stock outstanding in addition to paid-up stock of \$3,700.

Only 10 Days Remain for County Property Owners To Complete Tax Listing

Forestry Meeting At Pungo Friday

A forestry meeting will be held at the Pungo school building on Friday night, January 19, it was announced today by Forest Warden S. F. Darden, who urges a large crowd to attend.

The principal purpose of the meeting is to discuss early burning methods and the issuance of permits for burning over ground in an effort to prevent the peat-like soil in the Wenona and Pungo areas from catching fire, causing it to spread over large areas.

W. S. Moore, vocational agriculture teacher of the Plymouth High School, will attend the meeting and show a motion picture dealing with forest protection and fire protection.

Recalls Time When River Froze Over During 1894 Winter

Mrs. M. E. Fagan, of Dardens, Writes of Interesting Occurrence

The article in the Beacon last week about the number of times the Roanoke River has frozen over moved Mrs. M. E. Fagan, of Dardens, to write about the time back in 1894 when the river froze over solidly.

"The first and only time I ever saw it was in January or February, 1894," writes Mrs. Fagan.

"My husband's nephew had a sleigh and a neighbor, the late Mrs. Will Coburn, and I asked him to take us down to Daley's Hill Landing, about two miles from Dardens, to see it.

"On Sunday people drove horses hitched to carts and buggies on the ice from Daley's Hill Landing to Plymouth. It was on a Wednesday when we visited the scene, and the ice was cracking in some places.

"The nephew walked across the river to the other shore, and after he got across I asked Mrs. Coburn if she wanted to go over, too, but, as she wasn't well, she was afraid to go, so I walked over alone, passing several holes on the way. I should have accompanied the young nephew, as he might have rendered me help if I had fallen through the ice.

"It surely was worth the trip to see the solid ice film over the Roanoke River.

"They say 'There's one more river to cross.' The others have crossed it, and I hope to be ready when called."

Roper Mission Society To Sponsor Entertainment

The Missionary Society of the Roper Methodist church is sponsoring the appearance of "The Georgia Wildcats," of Richmond, Va., at the high school auditorium there Thursday night of next week, January 25, at 8 p. m.

Officers of the sponsoring group urge a large attendance

Supervisor Warns Delinquents of Penalties Imposed by Law

Big Rush Expected

Only 10 more days remains in which property owners of Washington County may list their holdings for taxation to escape the penalties imposed by law upon those who fail to list their property during the month of January.

Supervisor E. F. Swain said that the listing was taking place more rapidly in each township this year than was the case last April and property owners are making an effort to avoid the last minute rush as well as avoid the penalties imposed.

Mr. Swain declined to estimate the percentage of those listed in the four townships which he has visited, but it is understood and hoped that more than 50 per cent would be reached by the week-end with a rush expected for the next 10 days.

Mr. Swain said that special efforts would be made to get all personal property in the county on the books, with automobiles and dogs as special items that will be specifically sought for listing.

It is believed that by the week-end S. A. Ward, for the county, and Mrs. M. W. Spruill, for the town of Plymouth, will have about 50 per cent of all holdings in Plymouth township listed; while P. B. Belanga, in Scuppernon, E. M. Cheson, for Lees Mills, and W. W. White, of Skimmersville, are rapidly catching up with the work in their townships.

Special efforts will be made, emphasized Mr. Swain, to get every personal or real estate property owner's name on the tax books for taxing purposes during 1940.

Short Schedule on Bad Days Favored By School Patrons

Parents Vote 4 To 1 in Favor of Short Session on Rainy Days

Results tabulated in response to a questionnaire distributed to parents of children who attend the Plymouth schools indicate that short schedules on rainy days are favored by a majority of four to one.

There were two groups of schedules in the questionnaire submitted to patrons of the school, but officials have decided they would prepare and adopt a schedule designed to "keep the children out of the weather," as several of the parents expressed it.

Principal R. B. Trotman said today he believed a schedule for rainy days would be adopted whereby school sessions would begin at 8:25, with a 15-minute "break in recitations," and the children being sent home at 12:50.

Under this arrangement there will be no chapel exercises on rainy days, and there will be six 40-minute recitation periods. Usually the periods are 60 minutes in length on the regular 6-hour teaching days.

The questionnaire was sent to 520 patrons of the school by the children last Friday, and 221 had been returned yesterday in favor of a short schedule of some kind. On this basis the school board will work out a schedule.

H. H. McLean, county superintendent of schools, and Walter H. Paramore, member of the board of education, conferred with Clyde Erwin, state superintendent, at Raleigh last Friday, when a decision was reached to arrange for a permanent reduced schedule for rainy days to be followed.

DIFFERENCE

Although he applied calcium metaphosphate on his clover in the late spring, C. D. Baldwin of the Lansing community in Ashe County reports he could tell a marked difference when the clover was cut for hay.

Superior Court May End Term Today; List of Proceedings

Only Two Cases Remain on Calendar; Several Are Continued

Only two cases remained this morning on the civil calendar for trial at the January term of Washington County Superior Court, which resumed its work Monday, with Judge Q. K. Nimocks, of Fayetteville, presiding. It was not known whether the court would be in session tomorrow or not, as it was possible the two cases remaining might be continued, tried or settled by Thursday night.

Proceedings in the court since it began consideration of the civil calendar last Friday follow:

A jury awarded Minnie Pearl Winslow, administratrix of the estate of Earl Wilson, \$15,000 against Nick R. Daniels and George Leavette. Mr. Wilson was killed in 1938 while loading piling for the defendants. How much of the judgment the widow can collect is not known here.

Dr. A. Papineau vs. J. O. Everett. A consent judgment was entered, wherein Mr. Everett agreed to vacate the A. W. Swain property by March 1. Annie and Mae Spruill vs. W. J. (Jolly) Bell. Continued.

J. O. Everett vs. Western Union Telegraph Co. Continued on account of the illness of Mr. Everett.

Joseph Hextall vs. Kleckhefer Contracting Co. Set for trial as first case at April term.

Beulah Bland vs. David Dudley. Continued for motion.

J. J. Johnson against Tazewell Wheelock. Continued.

Town of Plymouth vs. Nancy Coffee. This tax-suit case was continued so that new parties may be included as defendants.

S. F. Bowser was awarded \$200 judgment against Mrs. Helen Peele, trading as Economy Cleaners. Edward L. Owens and Warren Brooks vs. Tim Waters. A settlement was reached in this case involving the boundaries and ownership of certain land.

George Patrick settled his case out of court against K. S. Mitchell. This was for damages resulting from an automobile accident. It was reported that Patrick settled for \$500.

The jury was withdrawn and a new trial ordered in the case of L. Shugar vs. E. W. Norrison.

G. S. Respass was given \$100 damages against P. H. Darden as the result of an automobile accident.

Charlie M. Allen was granted a divorce from Ferrell I. Allen. Theodosius Fagan was granted a divorce from Edith Fagan. Two other divorce actions were not complete and the decree not granted.

The two cases remaining for trial were those of Edenton Ice Company vs. A. J. Riddle and Herr and Kline vs. Don G. Davis. The latter may be continued and the other tried today.

Tomato Growers To Meet Friday, Jan. 26

Farmers who wish to sign contracts with the Neuse Packing Company, of Wilmington, for the production of tomatoes this season may see W. D. Peal, Creswell; E. G. Harrison, Plymouth; Aubrey R. Phelps, Roper; or A. L. Alexander, the local representative, at any time, it was announced this week.

Mr. Alexander said a meeting would be held in Chief of Police L. C. Snell's office in Roper at 11 a. m., Friday January 26, for those in the county January 26, to discuss growing tomatoes and present contracts to those who wished them.

Another meeting for the same purpose will be held in Columbia at 2 p. m., Saturday, January 27.

Mr. Alexander, who represents the packing company here, said he was fairly certain that contracts would be signed for the number of acres required for operation in this section this year by the packers.

Mr. Alexander pointed out that production of tomatoes provides a cash crop during a season when money is needed by the farmers, particularly for paying any extra help that may be needed to harvest later crops.

Highway Office Here Is Closed

Their work completed in Washington and Tyrrell Counties, the personnel of the State Highway and Public Works Commission office here left Monday for Kingston, and the office in the Harney Building here was closed.

E. P. Koonce, resident engineer, was in charge of the local office, and he had H. R. Gaddy, A. R. Hooker, H. F. Lucas, and H. P. Morris working with him. Jim Leary, of Roper, who also worked under the supervision of the local office, was transferred to Washington.

Here for about three years, many of the men had become attached to the town and were reluctant to leave, but since their work had been completed in this section they were transferred to other offices.

FIRST FATAL ACCIDENT OF 1940



The above photograph shows the Mercury coach in which Roy Alexander was fatally injured last week when it left the highway near Roper and struck a tree. Alexander, 33 years of age, died about 20 minutes after the accident, before a wrecker could be secured to aid in removing him from the wrecked car.—(Photo by Beck.)

County Politics Probably Quiet This Year Account National-State Situation

Few Local Offices Certain To Be at Stake and No Candidates Yet

Primary on May 25

Although 1940 is expected to provide some of the "hottest" politics seen or heard about in recent years, so far not a ripple of interest has been detected in county politics, and prospective candidates for local offices do not show any great concern about the coming Democratic primary, to be held this year on Saturday, May 25.

Heretofore the primary elections in this state have always been held on the first Saturday in June, but the last session of the General Assembly moved the date ahead about one week. The only reason assigned for this action was that when the first primary was held on the first Saturday in June and a second primary became necessary, it usually fell on or around the July 4th national holiday.

One reason for the dearth of political interest at this particular time is doubtless due to the fact that state and national politics will undoubtedly overshadow the county situation this year. There is still some uncertainty as to whether sheriffs and coroners will be up for election this year, with the state supreme court expected to hand down a decision early in February clearing the matter up. At the last general election, North Carolina voters approved a constitutional amendment providing four-year terms of office for these officials, who had been elected for two-year terms prior to that time. The supreme court has the last say as to whether the four-year terms of office apply to the sheriffs and coroners elected at the same time the amendments were ratified.

There will be no contest for the register of deeds' office this year, as the legislature provided four-year terms for this office prior to the last primary. This was made possible by the fact that registers of deeds are not constitutional officers, while sheriffs and coroners are.

About the only county offices at stake in this year are those of the three county commissioners, judge of recorder's court, treasurer, and representative in the General Assembly. The term of one member of the board of education, C. N. Davenport, of Creswell, expires next year, and this office will also be filled at the primary, the nominee usually being confirmed by the following session of the legislature.

There are many district offices to be filled, including state senator and Representative in Congress, as well as a complete slate of state officials, from the governor down. So far, only five have announced for governor, the largest number in many years, and the prospects are that there will be at least three others, possibly even more than that, so a hot time can be expected when they all take to the stump.

In addition to these, the national political situation has promise of lively doings before the summer is over, with speculation still rife as to whether President Roosevelt will seek or accept a third-term nomination. Inside "dope" at this particular time is that he wishes to step down and will probably issue a statement to this effect either on January 20 or March 4, although he has left prognosticators out on a limb so many times in the past that few are willing to predict just what he will do.

Women's Auxiliaries To Sponsor Leap Year Dance

The junior and senior women's auxiliaries of the Grace Episcopal church will sponsor a Leap Year dance at the community building here on February 2, with music to be provided by a radio-phonograph.

Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased from members of the auxiliaries. The admission charge will be 50 cents for couples and 25 cents for single. Refreshments will be served.

Work Is Speeded Up At Pulp Plant Here With Better Weather

Reported 150 Employees on Payrolls of Contracting Companies

Work on the building program in progress at the plant of the North Carolina Pulp Company here was moving along rapidly today, the return of favorable weather speeding up activities in all lines. There were about 150 men on the construction company's payroll, about equally divided between skilled workmen and laborers.

Thirty bricklayers, truck drivers, and laborers were added to the payroll this week as weather conditions enabled full crews to work on all the jobs underway.

Seventy of the 100 concrete footings for the machine building have been poured, and erection of structural steel will start as soon as this work is completed, probably within the next few days. Holes are being chipped in the walls of the present wet-room building so that the machine building may be connected with it at certain points.

The brick work on the bleach-liquor building has been completed. It is expected that the brick masons will conclude their work on the bleach building sometime this week.

Footings for the boiler buildings have been poured, and officials hope to start the steel and brick work on this building soon. Eight of the 15 large steel tanks scheduled for the job have already been erected.

The Muirhead Construction Company, with R. D. Lambert as construction foreman, is rushing its part of the job, with 100 men employed. Baubs and Lipman, paint contractors, of Newport News, Va., are expected to begin their part of the work this week, with Frank Freeman to be connected with them. They plan to have 10 or 15 men at work soon.

The Rohleder Construction Company, which is erecting the filtering plant, is nearing completion of its part of the contract. They hope to have this unit ready for operation very soon. The number of employees working for this firm has been curtailed to about 20.

The Bethlehem Steel Corporation workers are waiting for the machine building to be made ready for the structural steel work.

Attend Wedding Despite N. C. Law

Relatives of Roden Swain, 63, and Margaret Puckett, 67, of the Macedonia section of Washington County, who were here to attend their marriage this week, did not have time to wait for the report on the Wasserman blood test required by North Carolina law of contracting parties to a marriage, so the entire wedding party went to Norfolk Tuesday for the ceremony.

Several days are required to make a blood test and get the results back from Raleigh. Relatives were here from Philadelphia and other places for the wedding this week, so they went to the Virginia city for the ceremony, which was performed by Ernest C. Wilson, a marriage commissioner. As one relative put it: "They wanted to marry, and we had no objections; we came down for a wedding and we wanted to see one." It is believed this is one of the oldest couples in the county to be married in recent years.

Program of Services At Episcopal Church

There will be no lay service held at Grace Episcopal church Sunday morning, due to the fact that the Rev. Sidney E. Matthews, rector, will preach at the evening service at 7:30. Sunday school will be held at the usual time, 10 o'clock, Sunday morning.

Immediately after the evening service, at which the choir will render special music, a meeting of the vestry and the woman's auxiliary will be held.

Church officials urge a large attendance at the night service. Last Sunday morning, when Mr. Matthews preached here, one of the largest congregations ever to attend a regular service was present.

Fifty Thousand Dollars' Worth Bonds Of County Retired During Past Year

Fifty thousand dollars worth of interest-funding bonds held against Washington County were redeemed during the year 1939, it was learned today from Auditor E. J. Spruill, who added that interest on these bonds was also paid.

There are a few more thousand dollars worth of bonds which came due on July 1, 1939, that have not been paid, but this is because that they have not been

presented for payment, according to Mr. Spruill.

Thus the county is in fairly good financial condition, as no bonds have been presented for payment that have not been paid.

Refinancing of the bonded indebtedness of the county during 1936 has resulted in the county being able to retire its bonds when they came due. There is still an outstanding bonded indebtedness of the county totaling about \$700,000.