

H. H. McLean, superintendent of schools, and L. W. Zeigler, teacher and band instructor, have been asked by the Lions Club to designate children in county schools who most need glasses and are unable to pay for them. The club will furnish a number of them with glasses.

W. R. Hampton, owner of the famous Slade and Kitty Hawk fisheries up the river near here, today said that he did not know yet whether he would operate the fisheries this year. Last season they were not operated for the first time in about 100 years.

Mrs. J. T. Patrick, of Everetts, will speak on "Our Heritage" to members and guests of the Woman's Society of Christian Service of the local Methodist church at the community hall next Monday night at 7:30. Out-of-town guests expected include Mrs. J. W. Watts, Mrs. H. L. Swain and others, from Williamston. The public is invited.

F. H. Modlin, manager of the M. H. Mitchell Furniture Company here, is in High Point this week attending the furniture exhibition. James W. Norman, owner of the Norman Furniture Company, expects to attend next week, and E. E. Harrell, of the Plymouth Furniture Company, also is planning to attend.

J. R. Manning, Dr. E. W. Furgerson and W. L. Whitley were named a committee by the Lions Club recently to make an effort to revive Boy Scout work here. Dr. Furgerson is taking the lead in local Scouting activities. There is a very active Sea Scout organization here, under the leadership of Dr. A. Papineau.

Hardy Rose, formerly of Williamston, is now budget manager of the Economy Auto Supply Store here, succeeding C. E. H. Jones, of Dry Fork, Va., who was called into military service. Mr. Rose, who has been with the budget department of the Goodrich company for some time, came here from Charlotte. W. Ronald Gaylord is manager of the local store.

William Keith Saunders, of Raleigh director of publicity for the Highway Safety Division, was in town this week. He is interested in Town of Plymouth officials passing an ordinance to regulate the operation of bicycles as a safety measure.

Lieutenant Commander John B. Yarnell, United States Naval Reserve, who is connected with the State Selective Service Board, was here Tuesday and praised the records of the county. He followed by a group of officials.

Mrs. Gladys Carawan, of Washington, area supervisor for the NYA, while here this week, said that she had received 30 applications from youths in this county who wish to participate in the program. Already there are nine at work.

## Final Rites Held Last Friday for John W. Halsey

Prominent Resident of Skinnersville Victim of Pneumonia

Skinnersville. — Funeral services were conducted at the home Friday morning for John W. Halsey, 71, who died Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock, following an eight-day illness with pneumonia. The Rev. L. B. Bennett, Christian minister, and Dr. G. A. Martin, of the Baptist church, both of Creswell, conducted the final rites and interment was made in the family cemetery.

A native of Washington County, Mr. Halsey was a widely known farmer. A large crowd attended the funeral. Pall bearers were Leon Spruill, Joe White, Joe Pritchard, Jimmie Spruill, Russell Swain and Roy Furlough.

Mr. Halsey is survived by his widow, Mrs. Ada Virginia Halsey, and the following children: Five daughters, Mrs. Myrtle Tipton, of Cincinnati, Ohio; Mrs. Ida McLean, of Norfolk, Va.; Mrs. Fanny Adair, of Hamilton, Ky.; Mrs. Mamie Bobbitt, of Norfolk, Va.; and Mrs. Lillie Tarkenton, of Suffolk, Va.; seven sons, Cecil, Ben and Robert Halsey, of Norfolk, Va.; John, Jr., Ross, James and Wesley Halsey, of the Skinnersville section.

## Usual Last-Minute Rush for Listing Taxes Showing Signs of Developing

Tax listing and the quadrennial revaluation of property throughout the county continued today with the list takers and assessors finding themselves engaged in the usual rush that develops when only a few days are left for listing and assessing.

It is estimated that about 45 per cent of the listing has been done in the county, leaving 55 per cent to be completed in the seven days remaining. Those who are delinquent in submitting their listings are subject to penalties under the law, including double taxation.

Tax Supervisor E. F. Swain said this week that bad weather and other adverse circumstances had handicapped the list-takers and

## Mild Influenza Epidemic in County Believed Receding; Fewer Absences in Schools

Health and School Authorities Decide Not Necessary To Close Schools, Since Other Factors Involved in Attendance Decrease Last Week

The epidemic of a mild form of influenza which has been prevalent in Washington County for the past 10 days is now subsiding, with no reports of deaths caused by the disease thus far, according to Dr. S. V. Lewis, district health officer.

Although the disease is reportable to the district health officer, county physicians have been too busy to submit their reports, and so far not a single case has been officially reported to the office, Dr. Lewis said today. However, he has been in constant touch with the physicians and county school authorities in an effort to prevent further spread of the disease. It is expected that formal reports on the number of cases treated by the physicians will not be received for some weeks yet.

Schools of the county have used as somewhat of a barometer in judging the number of cases and spread

## Rush To List Follows Publication of Names Secured by Grand Jury

### Applications for Seed-Feed Loans

Applications for seed and feed loans are expected to be received in the county beginning next week, according to Miss Martha Hornthal, who has been aiding the farmers in preparing the applications for the last several seasons. She is located in W. R. Hampton's office on Water Street.

The seed and feed loan office has rendered a valuable service to marginal farmers in the county in years past and a fairly sizeable business is predicted for the agency again this season.

## 43 Out-of-School Boys Enrolled in Mechanics Classes

Being Held by Agriculture Departments as Part of Defense Program

Approximately 43 out-of-school rural boys have enrolled in the classes now being conducted in the Plymouth, Roper and Creswell white schools in mechanical operation in connection with the vocational agriculture departments of the schools.

The operation and care of trucks and tractors are being taught in the Plymouth schools by W. S. Moore and Edison Allen, county mechanic. There are 20 in this class. They met for the first time for instruction on Monday night.

Eleven persons have enrolled in the Roper school, where woodworking is being taught by Charles H. Floyd and Wilson Chesson.

The subject of mechanics is being taught in Creswell by A. H. Tucker and V. H. Brinn. Those enrolled in the school there are: Marvin Davenport, Ronald Spear, Leroy Stillman, Brantley Oliver, Charlie Davenport, Joe Davenport, Preston Sexton, Albert Sexton, Mack Davenport, Allen Spear, Franklin Spear and Bill Ambrose. Another course in metal work will be started as soon as more boys become interested.

Classes in all the schools are being held at night. The knowledge of work the young men are studying will stand them in good stead in the event this country needs more men experienced in this kind of work to speed the national defense program.

assessors to a considerable extent, but that his forces had been working as rapidly as possible to cover the county in the allotted time. It is expected by officials that thousands of dollars in valuations will be added to the tax books this year by reason of the assessors visiting all real property for the revaluation work. Much property is said to be on the books at too low a figure, and a few instances have been found where real estate has been thought to be valued too high. These inequalities are being remedied as far as possible by the assessors, and when the task is completed it is believed county real estate will be listed on the tax books on a much more equal basis than ever before.

## Eight Cases Called In Recorder's Court Session This Week

First Regular Session to Be Held This Month, Due to Superior Court Term

Eight cases came before the recorder's court here Tuesday and Wednesday, a special session being held the latter day, and then it was necessary to continue three of the cases. Recorder John W. Darden presided, with Prosecuting Attorney S. A. Ward handling the docket.

L. H. Leary, charged with operating an automobile while drunk, doing property damage and failing to stop, had his case continued.

Dennis G. Woolard, charged with robbing the Mackeys freight station in December, had his case continued. Andrew Simpson, 63, colored, charged with cruelty to animals by shooting and crippling a cow owned by Henry Halsey, had his case continued.

Sammy Dixon, 34, white, charged with non-support of his children, was given three months on the roads, suspended upon good behavior and payment of \$4 weekly to his wife for the support of his children. Bill Owens, 26, white, charged with aiding and abetting in a fight and with being disorderly, had his case not pressed.

Tom Ambrose, 24, white, charged with being drunk, engaging in an affray, and driving drunk, had his license to drive revoked and was sentenced to three months on the county farm.

Johnnie Frazier, 24, white, charged with having no driver's license and operating an automobile while drunk, was fined \$50 and costs.

James Cox, colored, charged with assaulting Queenie Johnston with a beer bottle, was given 60 days on the roads. The defendant noted an appeal.

## Propose Monument For General James Pettigrew at Park

Local People To Join Edenton Group in Seeking Appropriation

It is believed that the legislature now in session at Raleigh will soon be requested to pass required legislation for the erection of a monument in Pettigrew State Park, near Creswell, honoring James Johnston Pettigrew, famous Confederate general who formerly lived there and for whom the park was named.

John W. Darden, secretary of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, and W. L. Whitley, vice president for Washington County of the Southern Albemarle Association, are joining the Rev. C. A. Ashby, Edenton Episcopal minister, in urging establishment of the statue.

It is understood here that the full endorsement of the project by Governor J. Melville Broughton has been secured by the Edenton group and that local men are adding their influence to the movement.

Letters have been sent to O. M. Mull, speaker of the house of representatives, and Lieutenant Governor R. L. Harris, president of the senate, urging that funds be appropriated for such a monument.

## L. C. Snell Quits as Roper Police Chief

L. Clyde Snell, for five years chief of police of the Town of Roper, last week submitted his resignation to the Town Commissioners there, to become effective as soon as his successor can be selected, according to Aubrey Phelps, town clerk. The town commissioners were to have met last Friday to choose the new officer, but some of the members of the board were sick and it was impossible to secure a quorum.

The job pays \$50 per month in addition to arrest fees. Combined with policing the town are also the duties of tax collector. The tax levy of the town usually amounts to about \$2,700 per year.

Mr. Phelps said that there might have been some applications made for the position, but if so they had been made to members of the board and he did not know about them.

J. J. Hassell is mayor, and L. L. Mizell, J. E. Phelps and H. M. Williams comprise the membership of the board of commissioners.

## Town Council Discusses Extension of City Limits

The Town Council of Plymouth met Wednesday night to consider a plan of extending the town limits to the east, west and south; and, although a lengthy discussion was held, no definite action was taken.

Several proposals are under consideration by city officials, who hope to work out amicable agreements with those concerned before any steps are taken to extend the limits. It is expected that plans will be worked out within the next few weeks so that action may be taken during the current session of the legislature.

## Child Fatally Burned in Fire Near Roper Tuesday Morning

### "Lay Days" Likely To Be Designated For County During Next Quail Season

Representative W. M. Darden and a group of citizens from the county appeared before the Board of Conservation and Development meeting in Raleigh last week and asked that "lay days" be designated during the quail hunting season in this county next season.

Beaufort and several other surrounding counties had "lay days" this season, when quail could be hunted only on Tuesdays, Thurs-

## Beacon Is Winner of State Press Group's Award for Excellence

### Governor Broughton Announces Awards At Institute Friday

Editor of Paper Winning Second Place Is Also From This County

The Roanoke Beacon, of Plymouth, was last Friday night announced winner of the North Carolina Press Association trophy for general excellence among non-dailies of the state with 1,500 circulation or under. The announcement and presentation was made by Governor J. M. Broughton, a former newspaperman, in his first formal appearance outside the Capital at the annual dinner of the Midwinter Institute of the press association held at Duke University, where he presented the first annual awards for outstanding newspaper achievement in 1940.

Weeklies, semi-weeklies, and tri-weeklies all compete on the same basis in the non-daily class, although there are two divisions according to circulation in the general excellence contest, where competition is keenest. Trophies were also awarded for the best special edition and for outstanding community service.

The score card by which papers were judged in the general excellence contest follows: Mechanical excellence, 25 points; general and departmental news coverage, 25 points; literary excellence, 10 points; promotion of community interests, 10 points; editorial page, 15 points; and advertising enterprise, 15 points.

There were 32 entries in the general excellence contest, and the judging was based on regular editions published during the first week in June, the first week in December, and any four other consecutive editions.

It was a pleasure for this committee to study the entries," Chairman Wall said, explaining that judging (See BEACON, Page 4)

## Residence Here Is Damaged by Fire

Fire of undetermined origin caused damage to the amount of several hundred dollars Monday morning to the furniture and residence of M. D. Browning, on Third Street.

Mrs. Browning had been to the home of near-by neighbor on an errand for a few minutes, and when she returned discovered the roof of the house to be blazing. Mr. Browning said that he was unable to account for the origin of the blaze.

Firemen responded within a few minutes and brought the blaze under control, preventing its spread to near-by dwellings. The loss to Mr. Browning's furniture was said to be about \$500 and the damage to the house was estimated at another \$500.

Mr. Browning had no insurance on the furniture. The residence is owned by the A. L. Owens estate, and E. L. Owens said later that no policy could be found to cover the damage to the structure.

## Infant Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Phelps Dies at Creswell

Funeral services were conducted at the home near Creswell Saturday for Kerry Grant Phelps, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Phelps, who died Friday at the age of nine days. The Rev. R. N. Fitts officiated. Interment took place in the family cemetery.

Surviving is the infant's parents and one brother, Bryan Phelps.

### BEACON TROPHY



Above is a picture of the 1940 trophy for general excellence awarded to the Roanoke Beacon last Friday by the North Carolina Press Association. It is now on display in the Beacon office.

## County Red Cross Hears Field Man In Address Here

Committee Named To Nominate Officers of Unit for Coming Year

North Carolina is leading the eastern area as to percentage of increase over last year's enrollment in the Red Cross, according to C. Leo Wilkins, field representative, who was here last Friday to attend a meeting of the Washington County unit of the organization.

That Washington County is more than holding its own in the percentage of increase is shown by the fact that the county's roll call contribution for 1940 was about twice that of 1939. Mrs. Walter P. Lloyd, chairman for the 1940 roll call, reported about \$380 collected; while the 1939 report showed a total of \$189.50.

A committee, composed of Mrs. J. R. Campbell, Mrs. P. B. Bateman and Mrs. Edgar S. Woodley, of Creswell, was appointed at the meeting Friday to secure a chairman for the organization and management for war relief work, as well as to nominate other officers of the county organization for the coming year.

All members of the Red Cross who enrolled during the recent roll call campaign are urged by James W. Norman, present county chairman, to attend the meeting in the community hall here February 12, when a chairman, vice chairman and secretary and treasurer are to be elected.

Regarding the increase in membership, it was said that the national increase for 1940 over the prior year was 18 per cent, while in North Carolina the percentage of increase was 35 per cent.

## Plans Being Made To Operate Herring Roe Cannery at Mackeys This Season

The A. T. Belch & Son herring roe cannery at Mackeys is expected to open for the season the first part of February. The cannery was operated for three months last year, employing about 30 persons, and it is expected that the number of workers will be increased this season, as it is understood plans are being made to operate on a larger scale.

Last year the cannery did not open until March, as Mr. Belch

## Four Others Badly Injured When Farm Home Is Destroyed

Only Two Out of Family of Seven Escape Unhurt; Others Recovering

One child is dead, another is in a serious condition in a Washington hospital, two others were less seriously injured and the father severely burned about the face and arms as the result of fire which destroyed the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Spencer Hassell in the Mill Pond section south of Roper between 1 and 2 o'clock Tuesday morning. Mrs. Hassell and the two-year-old youngest child were the only members of the family of seven who escaped injury.

Obed Hassell, 7 years old, died Tuesday morning in a Washington hospital to which he had been taken only a few hours earlier. Another son, Rudolph, 12, was still being treated at the hospital today for burns about the body. At the home of their grandmother, Mrs. Walter Peacock, Vernon Ray Hassell, 9, was being treated for burns on the side of his face and lips, and Mary Elizabeth Hassell, 6, for burns on the hands and feet. Mr. Hassell, 39, had his face and arms severely burned, while William Anderson Hassell, 2, and the mother, the former Miss Elizabeth Windley, escaped unhurt. However, Mrs. Hassell was in bed Tuesday, prostrated by grief over the death of her son.

A group of prominent Roper women and other friends of the family were engaged Tuesday and Wednesday in gathering contributions of clothing, food and other necessities for the family, the members of which lost all of their earthly belongings, even the night clothes having been burned from their backs. People in Plymouth, Roper and other sections responded liberally as word of the tragic occurrence spread.

Smoke, heat, and cracking timbers awakened the parents, who did not have time to save any of their clothing, food, or furniture, but, with the help of others attracted by the blaze, centered their efforts on rescuing the children and taking them to the home of their grandmother, where they were put in a comfortable room.

It is not known how the fire originated, as the building was in a blaze when the occupants of the house awoke. There had been a fire in the house during the night, according to reports, because some member of the family had been sick. Mrs. Hassell carried the baby to safety, while Mr. Hassell caught up two of the children in his arms and called to the two boys, Obed and Rudolph, to follow him out. In a dazed condition, Obed, who was fatally burned, returned to his bed.

After carrying two of the children to safety, the father was unable to (See CHILD BURNED, Page 4)

## H. H. Highsmith, 43, Died Last Friday in Hospital at Norfolk

Funeral Held Sunday for Well-Known Resident Of Roper

Funeral services were held at the Roper Methodist church Sunday afternoon for Hudson Hunter Highsmith, 43, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Highsmith, of Roper, who died in the Norfolk General Hospital last Friday following an illness of four weeks as the result of a gall-bladder ailment and complications. The Rev. M. R. Gardner, pastor of the Methodist church, conducted the last rites and burial took place at the Robersonville cemetery.

Mr. Highsmith was born in Bethel on November 8, 1897, but has lived at Roper in this county with his parents for 30 years, coming here from Rocky Mount. Unmarried, Mr. Highsmith was well-known and very popular throughout the section.

Surviving, in addition to his parents, are three sisters: Mrs. Bryan Harris, of Wrenona; Mrs. Joe Oliver, of Roper; and Mrs. Layton Owens, of Norfolk.

Present plans contemplate operation of the cannery until about the first of May, but if enough other produce can be secured the plant will be operated the year around. John Davenport is the Mackeys representative of the firm.