

TOWN TOPICS

THE ROANOKE BEACON AND WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS



VOLUME LIV—NUMBER 36

Plymouth, Washington County, North Carolina, Thursday, September 9, 1943

ESTABLISHED 1889

Corporal and Mrs. Murray Gordon Chesson, of Greenville, are visiting Mr. Chesson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Chesson, Corporal Chesson is stationed at Camp Phillips, Kansas, with a tank destroyer outfit. He has been in the service since last December.

Second Lieutenant Russell B. Callis, brother of Mrs. Hilton Modlin, of Plymouth, has been promoted to first lieutenant at March Field, Calif., it was learned here this week. His wife, the former Miss Elsie Liverman, of Plymouth, is in California with him.

J. E. Davenport and Fred Davenport, of Mackeys, accompanied Mr. Davenport's son, J. E. Davenport, Jr., to Oak Ridge Military Institute Sunday. J. E., Jr., is beginning his second year at Oak Ridge and enters as platoon sergeant this term.

Eddie Sanderson, of Philadelphia, Pa., is spending a few days here with relatives and friends. A former resident of Plymouth, Mr. Sanderson is now an expeditor for the Glenn L. Martin Aircraft Company, of Baltimore, Md.

The regular meeting of the Plymouth Merchants Association will be held in the municipal building here next Monday night at 8 o'clock, it was announced today by H. H. Allen, president. Several matters of importance are to be considered and a full attendance is urged by Mr. Allen.

Sergeant Robert B. Campbell, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Campbell, was last week made a member of the board of governors of the non-commissioned officers' club at Camp Patrick Henry, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. Owen Bradon, of Plymouth, entertained all the members of their family last week, marking the first time the entire family had been together in three years. Their visitors were: Marcel Bradon, of the U. S. Coast Guard, of New York City; Staff Sergeant Charles Bradon, of Cherry Point; Mrs. Avis Trump, of Plymouth; and Mrs. Garnet Simmon, of Richwood, W. Va.

W. H. Berry, formerly principal of the Plymouth colored schools for a number of years, received his commission as second lieutenant in the Coast Artillery at Camp Davis week before last. He has been here for about a week visiting friends, but will leave the latter part of this week for Camp Stewart, Ga. So far as definitely known, he is the first member of his race from Washington County to receive an Army commission since the war started.

Earl Phelps, formerly with the local laundry, is now working for Lily's Laundry at Williamston. He announces that he will cover his old route here again, picking up laundry on Mondays and returning it Saturdays. Those who wish to get in touch with him may leave calls with telephone 229-1.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners and the board of education will hold their monthly meetings at the courthouse here next Monday morning, according to last week's announcement. The meetings were postponed for a week on account of the Labor Day holiday last Monday.

Anyone who wants a dog is invited to see Night Policeman Paul Bassant. He said yesterday that he had five shut up in the city dog pound, and he will be glad to give them to anyone who is willing to pay the tax and feeding costs. Several breeds are represented in the lot; in fact, one or two of the individual dogs represent several breeds.

E. V. Wilkins, principal of the J. J. Clemmons High School at Roper, said this week that the school had received a \$10 donation toward the school bus fund from Lieut. M. M. Peacock, formerly of Roper, now stationed on a United States Navy battleship. Lieutenant Peacock read in the Beacon about the drive to raise money for a school bus and sent in his donation, along with wishes for the success of the campaign.

It was announced Wednesday by the War Department at Washington that Second Lieutenant Franklin S. Rasmussen, of Plymouth, had been promoted to first lieutenant. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Rasmussen.

Plant Pathologist To Be In County Next Week

Howard R. Garris, plant pathologist of the Extension Division at Raleigh, will be in Washington County Wednesday afternoon, September 15, to make observations regarding losses from peanut leaf spot and southern root rot of peanuts. County Agent W. V. Hays will assist Mr. Garris in determining the damage done by these diseases in the county.

Bond Auction Here September 22nd

The management of the Plymouth Theatre this week announced that a number of premiums to be given away at the War Bond auction had been received at the theatre. It has been decided to hold the auction on Wednesday, September 22, and the general public is urged to contribute any articles that can be auctioned off on the stage that night.

Prizes donated so far include the following: A load of wood, by Mr. and Mrs. Don Overman; Nylon hose, by Mrs. Delma Peeler; a beautiful shawl, 100 years old, donated by a friend; \$25 War Bond, donated by Shep Brinkley; and a bushel of sweet potatoes, donated by Mrs. Laura Johnson.

Article of farm produce, product of home canning, item of wearing apparel; in fact, anything of any kind will be welcomed, it is stressed.

20-Cent Reduction in Tax Rate of Town Is Tentatively Approved

Local Boy Scouts To Meet Monday

Plymouth Boy Scouts will meet next Monday night at the scout room in the courthouse at 8 o'clock, it was announced yesterday by the Rev. Lee A. Phillips, scoutmaster. It will be the first meeting of the scout troop since Mr. Phillips was elected scoutmaster Monday of last week.

All Scouts are urged to attend Mr. Phillips' initial meeting and get acquainted with the new scoutmaster. Plans will be made for carrying on the program of troop activities, about which announcement will be made later.

Enrollment at Local School Still Below Last Year's Figures

Principal Appeals for Regular Attendance of All Children

Enrollment in the Plymouth schools continues to run slightly below the figures for the same period last year, it was learned this morning from Principal R. B. Trotman. At the end of the first week of school this term, the total enrollment stood at 532 for the elementary school and 140 in the high school, the 672 total being 11 less than last year.

Mr. Trotman said the reduced enrollment threatened the loss of another teacher from the local schools this year, unless parents and patrons see to it that their children attend regularly. Teacher allotments are based on average daily attendance, and if the usual percentage of absences prevails this term in the face of the lower enrollment, then the school stands to lose a teacher, he said.

The school lost one teacher last year, it is pointed out, and the loss of another would constitute a serious setback. The only remedy, according to school authorities, is for parents to make every effort to have their children in school every day possible.

Mr. Trotman also appeals to farmers to take advantage of the short schedule now in effect, which releases rural children approximately half of each day for farm work. If the children are to be kept out all day to perform their tasks about the farms, then schools may as well return to the regular schedule, it is stated. The schools are sacrificing part of their classroom time in order to make the children available for farm work during the first six weeks of the term, but this sacrifice will be worthless unless farm parents cooperate by seeing that their children attend regularly the curtailed periods.

County Meat Dealers To Be Checked For Compliance With Ceiling Rules

The price-ceiling panel of the Washington County War Price and Rationing Board is preparing to make a check of all meat handlers in the county to see that they are complying with the maximum price and other regulations governing the sale of meat, it was learned yesterday.

The panel recently completed a check of compliance by grocers with the price ceiling and posting regulations. It was stated that only a few violations were found, and in most cases they were due to misunderstanding of

Few Are Said To Be Eligible for Extra Allotments of Sugar

Many Making Application For Canning Sugar, But Few Can Be Granted

The sugar rationing regulations are the cause of a new series of headaches to the local rationing board. Many people in the county are applying for extra allotments of sugar for canning purposes, but few are able to prove they are entitled to the supplements, it is stated.

It is pointed out that local rationing officials have been given very definite instructions about granting extra allotments of sugar for canning; and, unless the regulations have been strictly complied with, it is impossible for the board or office officials to allow any supplements.

Only five pounds of sugar per person are allowed for making concentrated sweets, including jams, jellies and preserves. No sugar is allowed for cucumber pickles or for canning vegetables of any kind.

Last spring, stamps Nos. 15 and 16 in sugar books were allowed to be used to secure 5 pounds of sugar each, but this sugar was to be used only for the canning of fruits. Each pound was supposed to be sufficient for canning four quarts of fruits. Therefore, unless applicants can prove that they have four quarts of fruit canned for every pound of sugar obtained with stamps 15 and 16—as well as any other sugar allowed for canning—they are not eligible for any further extra canning sugar.

If any of the sugar obtained with stamps 15 and 16 was used for any purpose other than the canning of fruits, it is contrary to the express regulations announced last spring; and such applicants are not eligible for any more sugar, it is stated by local board officials.

It was stated at the office of the board yesterday that "while this may not meet with the approval of many people, it is what Washington has sent to us in the regulations. Any citizen has the right to appeal his case. We have the blanks and will gladly give them to you so that you may appeal your case."

Four Accepted for Military Service

Final returns have not been received on the 11 colored men from Washington County sent to Fort Bragg Thursday of last week. However, it is known that at least three of them were accepted for service in the Marine Corps, while the Army claimed another one. It is possible that some of the others were accepted for other branches of the service, it was stated at the office of the draft board.

The leader of the contingent, John Smith, of Plymouth, failed to show up for the trip to Fort Bragg. He has a few more days to report to the local board before he is certified to the FBI as a delinquent.

The three men accepted by the Marine Corps are as follows: William Earl Norman and Fred White, Jr., of Roper; Joseph Grant Clark, of Plymouth.

Joseph Frank McNair, of Plymouth, was accepted for service with the Army.

Allen Opens Self-Service Store Here

Allen's grocery store was rearranged over the Labor Day week-end and opened Tuesday morning on a self-service basis. It is the first of this type of grocery ever to be located in Plymouth, and Mr. Allen said yesterday that his patrons seemed to be very well satisfied with the change.

Difficulty in obtaining experienced help caused Mr. Allen to consider the possibility of installing the self-service system. He retained all of his clerks and they are on hand to assist patrons select the items they want. Carts and baskets are provided at the entrance, and shoppers make the rounds of his store, where all goods are displayed, choosing the articles as they go.

The owner announces that everything in the store is put on display each day, the scarce items along with those more plentiful. This eliminates any chance of favoritism, since each patron selects whatever items he or she wants as long as they last.

It was impossible to make all the changes over the past week-end, and the price strips on some of the shelving had not been arranged when the store opened on the new basis yesterday. However, this will be completed by the last of this week, and all items will be plainly marked, he said.

Several To Attend Farm Bureau Meet in Greenville

County Agent W. V. Hays, J. R. Manning, president of the Washington County Farm Bureau, and possibly a few others from this county are planning to attend the annual Pitt County Farm Bureau Rally to be held at the baseball park in Greenville Friday afternoon of this week.

Enroll 2,900 Pupils In County Schools First Day of Term

2,430 in Elementary Grades And 470 in High Schools August 31st

There were 2,900 children enrolled in the 16 white and colored schools of the county Tuesday of last week, when they opened for the 1943-44 term, according to H. H. McLean, county superintendent of public instruction. Mr. McLean said the first-day enrollment figures were about the same as last year, although definite figures were not cited for the 1942-43 term.

In the white schools, there were 1,237 enrolled in the four elementary schools, while the three high schools had a total enrollment of 281. The 12 colored elementary schools enrolled 1,193, and the three high schools had 189 pupils the first day. This makes a total of 2,430 elementary students in the county and 470 in the high schools, for a grand total of 2,900.

Enrollment figures will increase as the term progresses, it is believed. Quite a number of rural children are being kept at home by farm work, it is stated, although all the schools are operating on a short schedule that lasts only about a half day. It is hoped that farmers will take advantage of the half-day schedule and not keep their children out of school the whole day, otherwise the shortened schedule will be of no value.

School officials still have not been able to fill the position of commercial teacher in the Plymouth High School. This is the only teacher vacancy in the county.

Opening-day enrollment was as follows:

Table with columns for White, Colored, and H.S. enrollment by school district.

Mrs. A. B. Papineau Dies in Connecticut

News was received here Tuesday night of the sudden death of Mrs. A. B. Papineau, mother of Dr. Alban Papineau, in Essex, Conn., at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Jara Vasa. She had been ill for several weeks, but recent advices indicated that she was improving and news of her passing came as a shock. She had visited her son here on several occasions and is very pleasantly remembered by a number of Plymouth people.

Dr. and Mrs. Papineau left yesterday to attend the funeral, which will be held at the Church of the Advent in Boston Friday. Dr. Papineau's father, formerly rector of this church, died a number of years ago.

Carload of Vetch Seed Available To Farmers

A carload of vetch seed has been received for distribution to county farmers through the office of the AAA here, it was stated this week. The seed will be distributed as a grant-of-aid through the AAA program. Payments may be made in cash or the amount due will be deducted from soil conservation checks when they are received.

Farmers who wish to buy this vetch seed are advised to go to the county agent's office for an order on the storage warehouse. The price is approximately \$12.50 per 100 pounds.

Change in Postmasters Here Did Not Take Place September 1, as Announced

No change has been made yet in the postmastership of the local post office, although Representative Herbert Bonner announced a month ago that J. Corbett Swain would succeed John W. Darden in the position on September 1. Both Mr. Swain and Mr. Darden were on hand last Wednesday and Thursday to make the change, but no postal inspector showed up; and, as a consequence, Mr. Darden is still on the job.

Reason for the delay is not definitely known, but it is now believed that no change will be made until after Mr. Swain's appointment has been confirmed by the Senate. This cannot take place until Congress reconvenes about the middle of the month.

To Plan County War Bond Drive at Meet Here Monday Night

10 Ration Books Lost Each Week

Many Washington County consumers are losing their ration books, according to records in the office of the local rationing board. Applications for books to replace lost ones average about 10 each week, it is said.

Finders of lost books are requested to bring or mail them to the office of the board. Some housewives leave their books at stores and fail to return for them. In such cases storekeepers are required to turn the lost books over to the board.

It is a violation of the law, punishable by heavy penalties, to use or attempt to use the ration book of another person. For that reason, finders are advised to turn such books over to the board as soon as possible.

Dr. Ralph McDonald Heard at Labor Day Observance Monday

Says Home-Front Obstacles Constitute Chief Threat To Victory

Labor Day was very quietly observed in Plymouth and Washington County Monday of this week. All the local stores and business establishments were closed for the day, while most of the members of organized labor, who usually sponsor celebration of the occasion, remained at their jobs in local industrial plants.

Only a small crowd attended the program at the courthouse, which featured several addresses. The program was dedicated to the more than 300 members of six local labor unions now serving in the Army. Dr. Ralph W. McDonald, of Winston-Salem, was the principal speaker, and addresses were also made by John W. Darden, Plymouth postmaster, and Dr. D. G. Garland, colored representative of the American Federation of Labor, of Winston-Salem.

Following the invocation by the Rev. Lee A. Phillips, pastor of the local Baptist church, Mr. Darden reviewed the progress organized labor had made in the community in the past five or six years, and paid tribute to their patriotism and loyalty. Mr. Darden stated that of all the War Bonds sold through the local post office, approximately 60 per cent was issued to the members of the local unions.

"The most dangerous obstacles to complete and speedy victory against our enemies are home-front obstacles," Dr. McDonald declared in opening his address. He identified the chief home-front obstacle as disunity, overconfidence, selfishness and "normalcy."

"Only a united people can achieve their utmost in production of arms, food, and other implements of world warfare," said Dr. McDonald. "Now as never before in our history it is imperative that the differences between us be eliminated."

Local Parent-Teachers To Meet Next Thursday

The first meeting of the Plymouth Parent-Teacher Association of the current school term will be held in the school auditorium here Thursday night of next week, September 15, it was announced this week by Mrs. W. V. Hays, a leader of the organization. It will be held in the school auditorium, beginning at 8 o'clock.

Plans for the year's work will be considered, it was stated, and all patrons of the Plymouth school are urged to be present.

It was stated that the board was getting information about farming it had never been able to get before, despite the previous appeals for such data. More than 75 men have already filed farm statements which had not been considered in this class previously.

Men in the list of non-deferrable occupations will be called first when drafting of pre-Pearl Harbor fathers is started, according to the regulations. However, it is considered doubtful that men in this class will be sufficient to fill more than one or two monthly quotas.

There are many types of work in this locality which are classed as essential, it is stated, and men in the non-deferrable occupations have been advised to change before September 15 in order to be given consideration.

Special Campaign Committee Named To Begin Canvass

Representative Group From Each Section in List Announced Today

A little late in starting, Washington County will be organized within a week to wage a whirlwind campaign to raise the largest amount of money it has ever had assessed against it, it was stated today by H. E. Beam, chairman of the county War Finance Committee. That drive is to sell \$262,000 worth of War Bonds, the county's share of the nation's \$15,000,000,000 goal for the third war loan.

Mr. Beam announced that Postmaster John W. Darden, of Plymouth, has been designated chairman of the special campaign. A meeting of the campaign committee, composed of representative men and women from every section of the county, will be held in the courthouse here next Monday night at 8 o'clock to lay plans for an intensive person-to-person canvass to reach everyone in the county during the remaining days of September.

Mr. Beam said that the campaign committee faces a difficult but not impossible task. While \$262,000 is a lot of money for a small county like Washington to raise, it is pointed out that this is only a little more than \$20 per person, and if a determined effort is made, it is believed the goal can be reached. Other counties in this section have quotas that range on up to more than \$40 per capita.

In announcing the membership of the county campaign committee, Mr. Beam stated that it was not yet complete, as there are some additional names to be added to the list. The complete details will be worked out at the meeting Monday, and the committee members from each section will make up their own list of canvassers.

The committee members, as announced by Mr. Beam this morning, are as follows: Special campaign chairman, John W. Darden, of Plymouth; Plymouth: David Kuhe, G. A. Shannon, E. F. Still, E. A. Harrison, J. R. Manning, B. G. Campbell, H. H. Allen, H. E. Harrison, Z. V. Norman, J. W. Norman, W. L. Whitley, (See BOND DRIVE, Page 4)

Reclassification of Registrants To Be Studied by Board

Occupational Data Being Received Will Be Given Consideration

The Washington County Selective Service Board is planning a series of special meetings within the next few days to consider the possible reclassification of "pre-Pearl Harbor" fathers. It was learned yesterday. The board held a lengthy session Tuesday night, but decided to schedule special meetings for Saturday of this week and Monday of next week, when they will study the occupational information now being turned in by registrants.

Notices have been sent out to hundreds of registrants during the past few weeks calling for information about their occupations. The registrants were given until Saturday of this week to get this information to the board.

It is announced, however, that no men will be reclassified during the 15-day period from September 15 to October 1st. During that period a national inventory is being taken of all men on the list of draft boards to determine the size of the manpower pool available to the nation at this time.

It was stated that the board was getting information about farming it had never been able to get before, despite the previous appeals for such data. More than 75 men have already filed farm statements which had not been considered in this class previously.

Men in the list of non-deferrable occupations will be called first when drafting of pre-Pearl Harbor fathers is started, according to the regulations. However, it is considered doubtful that men in this class will be sufficient to fill more than one or two monthly quotas. There are many types of work in this locality which are classed as essential, it is stated, and men in the non-deferrable occupations have been advised to change before September 15 in order to be given consideration.