

Friends in Plymouth last week received Christmas greetings from Dr. E. W. Furgurson, written while he was in India. At the time he mailed the greetings early in November, Dr. Furgurson, a captain in the Medical Corps of the Army Air Forces, did not know that he would beat the messages home. He returned to this country early in December and recently left for San Antonio, Texas, where he will be stationed for some time. In his card to The Beacon, he asks that his greetings be extended to all his friends and former patients in and around Plymouth.

Quite a number of U. S. Marine Corps flying officers from the Edenton base have been in Plymouth recently seeking living quarters for the time they are stationed at the Harvey Point Air Station. However, Plymouth is about in the same boat as Edenton, so far as housing is concerned and very few of them could be accommodated here.

The Rationing Board office in the courthouse will be closed to the public both Friday and Saturday of this week, the public is reminded. The office force will work Friday as usual, mailing out allotments and catching up with the office work, but the doors will be closed. On Saturday, the office will observe its only holiday of the year—Christmas day.

E. F. Swain, of Creswell, tax supervisor, and the several township list takers are holding a meeting Tuesday night of this week with the county board of commissioners, when tax listing schedules and a schedule of valuations for personal property are to be worked out. Tax listing will get underway throughout the county early in January and continue throughout the month.

It was announced last week by the OPA that no points would be required for the purchase of dried raisins attached to original stems. The announcement came just in time to step up Christmas trade on raisins.

Although the Branch Banking & Trust Company will be closed Saturday and Monday in observance of the Christmas holiday, it was announced yesterday by H. E. Beam that it would be open between the hours of 8 and 9 p.m. Friday night, Christmas Eve, for the benefit of those who may wish to avail themselves of last-minute banking service before the holidays.

Lieutenant and Mrs. R. W. Irvine are occupying an apartment in the home of Mr. and Mrs. P. B. Bateman on East Main Street here. Lieutenant Irvine is a Marine Corps flying officer and was recently transferred from Cherry Point to the Edenton Air Station. He is originally from Iowa.

Impressive Service At Episcopal Church

One of the most impressive and beautiful services of the church year will be the midnight celebration of the Holy Communion at Grace Episcopal Church on Christmas Eve. The service will begin at 11:30 p.m. on December 24. It will be past the hour of midnight when members of the congregation partake of the communion elements. Thus, the first act of these communicants on Christmas Day, 1943, will be the spiritual act of communion with God through the partaking of the bread and wine of the Last Supper.

For the past several weeks the members of Grace Church have taken part in the Pilgrimage to Bethlehem, with the plan for each individual to present a Christmas gift to the church at the midnight service Christmas eve. This offering is to be used for the debt retirement and building fund of the parish.

In presenting this gift at the Christmas Eve service, members of the congregation are following the example of the three wise men of old, who at the first Christmas, presented their costly treasures at the manger side of the Christ-Child.

The public is cordially invited to attend this Christmas Eve service and offering at 11:30 p.m. (See GRACE CHURCH, Page 4)

Business Houses Extend Greetings

As an expression of their appreciation for the friendship and patronage accorded them in the past, Plymouth merchants and other business men pause at this time to extend their sincere greetings to all the people of this section through the columns of this paper today.

A new hope and understanding are created at Christmas time, and to enhance the value of these, the business forces of this town express, in a most sincere way, their wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

Read the little messages, without which Christmas would be little more than just another day in the year, and know that these firms are interested in your happiness at all times, and especially at this glad season.



IN THE GOOD OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

The people of these United States have observed 167 Christmases since the Declaration of Independence. And before that, there were about 175 years of pioneering, during which, amid all sorts of odds, the families within this land's shores celebrated the merry holiday.

This wartime Christmas finds us with much to be solemn about—much to fight for, and much to pray for.

But there have been Christmases before, when things seemed even darker for us.

So, with the true American spirit of fortitude, inner gaiety and deeply rooted faith, we're going to celebrate this December 25th in the good old fashioned Christmas spirit.

Holly in our windows; festively trimmed trees; remembrances for everyone—especially the children—Christmas carols—and, above all, Christmas services in Church, where we'll bow and extend the season's greetings to friends and neighbors.

That's Christmas, American style. That's the way our fighting men around the world like to think of it. That's the way they too will spend next Christmas—at home—if each of us does everything in his power to speed Victory!

To our readers, we extend the most simple and sincere greeting of the season—Merry Christmas to you all.

THE ROANOKE BEACON

Local Army Flyer Parachutes to Safety From Burning Ship

Lt. Ransom Martin Treated for Shock, Exposure After Experience

Second Lieutenant Ransom Martin, of Plymouth, bombardier on a four-motored heavy bomber, landed safely in shallow water off Barron Island on the Maryland coast after parachuting from his ship, which had developed engine trouble. One member of his crew was drowned and another was missing, while six others who remained with the ship landed safely at an air base near Washington, D. C. Langley Field officers said four of the men jumped after one engine caught fire.

Lieutenant Martin wandered about for several hours after landing safely before finding Tech. Sgt. John R. Sommers, 25, of Minon, Ill., who had landed unhurt on Hoopers Island. Martin was taken to a Cambridge, Md., hospital, where attendants said he was treated for shock and exposure. Maryland state police, the Navy and volunteers conducted a search for the still missing man. The name of the drowned flyer, who landed in the sea off Hoopers Island, was withheld pending notification of relatives.

The craft was based at Langley Field and was understood to have been on a routine training flight when one of the motors burst into flames. The six men who remained with the plane landed safely at the Camp Springs air base near Washington.

Local Young Man Given First Stripe at Air Base

Bolling Field, D. C.—William O. Woodley, of the Army Air Forces, was recently promoted to the grade of private first class at the Army Air Base, Bolling Field, D. C.

His promotion was announced last week by Colonel Thomas W. Hastey, commanding officer.

Pfc. Woodley is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Loomis E. Woodley, of Plymouth, Route 1.

BACK ON JOB



Judge W. Ronald Gaylord returned to preside over the county recorder's court here Tuesday after volunteering and serving 16 months in the United States Army. He received an honorable discharge earlier this month because of physical disability.

Volume of Mail in Post Office Here at High Point for Year

Stamp Sales Are Still Behind Record Set Last Year, However

The Plymouth post office is in the midst of the heaviest mailing season of the year this week. However, it was stated that the peak is being distributed over a longer period than in any former year. Mails, both incoming and outgoing, have been very heavy for more than a week now, and they are expected to continue so right up until Christmas Day. However, it is not expected there will be the usual tremendous volume during the week.

(See POST OFFICE, Page 4)

Christmas Seal Sale In County Drawing Near Its Goal of \$300

Over \$250 Worth Sold So Far; Quota \$125 Higher Than Last Year

According to Mrs. D. W. Hunt, chairman of the Red Cross Christmas Seal Drive in the County, more than \$250 worth of the seals have been sold. This is not all the sales to date, because all reports have not been made. The quota for Washington County is \$300, that amount having been sent to the Woman's Club which is sponsoring the drive. Following are the amounts sold by the schools which have reported so far:

Hampton Academy	\$20.00
Plymouth High School	47.00
Roper School	13.75
Creswell School	20.00
Creswell Colored School	5.00

There have been many contributions by individuals of \$1 or more, and also donations by firms and business houses. The quota of \$300 surpasses that of last year by \$125, but for a county of this size that is only a little over 2½ cents per capita.

If anyone would like to make a contribution who has not already done so, get in touch with Mrs. Hunt. Also everyone who has not made a report is urged to get it in as soon as possible.

Lawyers Here Get Ready For January Court Term

The Washington County Bar Association had a brief meeting last week to arrange a calendar for the civil term of superior court to be held here in January. The term will begin January 10 and continue for two weeks, with the first part of the session to be devoted to the trial of criminal cases.

It was stated at the courthouse yesterday that there were comparatively few criminal cases to be tried. The docket has not yet been arranged. The lawyers recently agreed on a motion calendar for civil cases, and the complete schedule will be announced within a week.

Poor of County Will Receive Certificates Good for Necessities

Empty Stocking Fund Plan of Distribution Changed By Ration Program

Empty Stocking Fund coupons valued at 50 cents each have been issued to needy families of Washington County in order that each family may purchase its own Christmas supplies, according to a statement made here today by the chairman of the fund, the Rev. William B. Daniels, Jr.

The number of coupons issued to each family is based on the number in the family and the degree of need. The Branch Banking and Trust Company of Plymouth will honor these coupons at face value when presented by any merchant of Washington County.

The coupons may be used by recipients to purchase food, clothing, fuel, and drug supplies. A reasonable amount of candy, fruit, and small toys may also be bought with these coupons. Coupons may not be used for the purchase of any alcoholic beverage.

Merchants of Washington County were notified of this plan by a letter from the chairman of the Empty Stocking Fund last week, and were requested to cooperate with the committee in this matter.

The coupons have no cash value. That is, no change in cash should be given by the merchant to the user, but the entire face value of each coupon should be used.

Difficulties imposed by the rationing system and the general shortage of foodstuffs made the original plan of distributing a basket to each family impracticable. By issuing the coupons, it is thought that each family may be able to purchase on the basis of its own needs.

Contributions to the Washington County Empty Stocking Fund reach—

(See COUNTY POOR, Page 4)

Mrs. W. E. Blount Died Late Sunday At Home in Roper

Funeral Service To Be Held Wednesday Afternoon at Methodist Church

Funeral services will be held in the Roper Methodist church Wednesday afternoon of this week, at 2:30, for Mrs. Mertie L. Blount, widow of the late W. E. Blount, who died at her home here Sunday night at 8:30 o'clock. The Rev. G. C. Wood, pastor of the church, will conduct the last rites, and interment will be made in the Wentz cemetery near Roper.

Mrs. Blount, 63 years of age, had been ill for about four weeks prior to her death Sunday night. The daughter of the late Andrew Bateman and Mrs. Priscilla Brickhouse Bateman, she was born in Tyrrell County on October 9, 1880. She moved to the Skimmersville section of this county with her parents while quite young and has lived in Washington County since that time. On December 28, 1894, she was married to the late W. E. Blount in Tyrrell County. He preceded her to the grave by a little more than three years. For the past 16 years she has made her home in Roper.

She united with the Rehoboth Methodist church in the Skimmersville section in her youth and remained a faithful member until her death.

Mrs. Blount is survived by two daughters, Miss Donnie Blount, of Roper, and Mrs. Mark S. Polack, of New York City. She also leaves three grandchildren.

6 Whites Accepted Out Of December Draft Call

Six out of the 15 white men who left Washington County on December 3rd were accepted for service in the Army and Navy. It was learned at the office of the selective service board here this week. All of them were fathers. Three of them went to the Navy and three to the Army.

Those accepted are as follows: Carl B. Roberson, Foy Garland Davenport and Elbert Lee Woodley, by the Army; Adrian Earl Barnes, John Latham Spruill and Robert William Carter, by the Navy.

Mrs. Clara Johnston New Correspondent for Roper

Miss Donnie Blount, who has served as correspondent for The Beacon in the Roper section for the past 8 or 10 years, is giving up this work there this week and will be succeeded by Mrs. Clara Johnston. Miss Blount, following the death of her mother last Sunday night, is planning to go to New York to live with her sister, Mrs. Mark S. Polack.

Mrs. Johnston will accept new and renewal subscriptions to The Beacon from people in the Roper community, as well as handle the news from there.

Workers of Section to Get From 1 to 5 Days Holiday for Christmas

LEAVES FOR POST



Second Lieutenant Luther Warnie Gurkin, Jr., left last week for his new post at Dodge City, Kan. He graduated from an Army Air Forces flying school and received his commission early this month.

County Still Ahead Of Aggregate War Bond Goals for Year

\$695,351.50 Worth of Bonds Sold To Date in 1943; Quotas, \$619,302.75

Although Washington County has already fallen down on its War Bond quotas three times this year, and is running behind on sales for the current month for the year as a whole, sales are running ahead of the composite quotas by some \$64,000. It was learned Monday from H. E. Beam, county chairman of the War Finance Committee.

With a quota for December of \$25,650, sales at the local post office and bank Tuesday aggregated \$12,106.25. However, it is expected that sales will step up sharply during the remainder of the week, when a good many people will buy bonds to be given as Christmas presents. It is known also that Creswell will report very good sales this month, since upwards of \$5,000 worth of bonds were sold there on December 7th at a "Remember Pearl Harbor" rally.

Mr. Beam said Tuesday morning that at least \$695,351.50 worth of bonds had been sold in the county so far this year; while the aggregate quotas assigned to the county for the year, including this month, amounted to \$619,302.75. In other words, the county will oversubscribe its bond quotas for the year by some 10 per cent.

The record this year is not nearly as impressive as that made in 1942, although sales are nearly double. Last year the county oversubscribed its total quotas by about 30 per cent. Since the war began in December, 1941, roughly \$1,000,000 worth of War Bonds have been sold in Washington County. Sales during the year from December 7, 1941, to December 7, 1942, amounted to \$330,350; while sales during the next year are well over \$600,000.

The county fell down on its quotas this year in July, by \$3,597.50; in October, by \$19,580; and in November by \$7,897.50. However, sales in the other months were sufficient to overcome the deficit for the year as a whole. The county had a quota of \$134,900 in the second War Loan Drive during April, and bought \$158,241.75 worth. In the third War Loan drive, during October and November, the county came up \$19,580 short of its \$281,600 quota.

Winter Begins at 12:30 Wednesday

According to the calendar, winter begins at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 22; but so far as this neck of the woods is concerned that was no light fall mist that fell last week; and most folks in this section have had enough of winter already—before it even officially got started.

December 22 also is considered the shortest day of the year; but the table of sunrise and sunset in the old reliable World Almanac indicates differently. According to that authority, there is no difference in the length of the day from December 16 through December 28, although the sun rises and sets a few minutes later at the end of that 12-day period than it did at the beginning. Wednesday the sun rises at 8:21 a.m. and sets at 5:47 p.m., giving the days length as 9 hours and 26 minutes.

Stores and Business Houses Here Close Saturday - Monday

Industrial Plant Employees Also Get Extra Time Off For Annual Holiday

Employees of the various industrial plants, stores, offices and business establishments in Plymouth and Washington County will have a vacation period of from two to five days during the Christmas season, a check-up here this morning revealed. Christmas falling on Saturday this year causes practically all workmen to get at least two consecutive days away from their jobs.

All the stores and business houses in Plymouth, with the possible exception of filling stations and drug stores, will be closed both Saturday and Monday, which, with the regular Sunday holiday, gives them three days. The bank and ABC stores in the county will likewise be closed both Saturday and Monday. County offices in the courthouse will be closed from Friday at noon through Monday; it is understood.

"The war must go on," so the local rationing board and the draft board offices will observe only a one-day holiday, Saturday only. Post offices, too, will have only one day; and, judging from the volume of mail during the past few days, they have really earned it.

The Plymouth Box and Panel Company plant will close down Friday at noon and reopen Monday morning. It was stated yesterday by E. F. Still, president and general manager, Mrs. R. J. Sydenstricker, manager of the American Fork & Hoe Company here, said that plant also would be closed from Friday noon to Monday morning.

The plant of the North Carolina Pulp Company will close down for the periodic overhaul of machinery and equipment Christmas Eve, and production is not expected to be resumed before New Year's day, according to D. B. Kuhe, resident manager. However, it was explained that most of the workmen will return to work Monday after Christmas and be engaged in repair and maintenance work for the remainder of the week, although the plant will not be in operation. Only a skeleton crew will be kept on duty Christmas Day. It is planned to resume production on Saturday January 1st.

Each employee of the pulp plant is (See HOLIDAYS, Page 4)

Joint Service Here Wednesday Night

A union Christmas service will be held at the Ludford Memorial Baptist church here Wednesday night, December 22, beginning at 7:30, and the public is cordially invited and urged to attend and take part. The Baptist, Methodist, Episcopal, Christian and Presbyterian churches are cooperating to make the special service a success. It is the only joint program planned in Plymouth during the Christmas season.

The program will be as follows: Prelude, organ. Hymn, choir and congregation. Prayer, by the Rev. T. R. Jenkins, pastor of the Methodist church. Special music. "Christmas in Japan," by Miss Rachel Hassell, of the Presbyterian church, who has done missionary work in that country. Sermon, by the Rev. E. B. Quick, pastor of the local Christian church. Hymn, choir and congregation. Benediction, by the Rev. William B. Daniels, Jr., rector of Grace Episcopal Church. Postlude, organ.

Beacon Office To Be Closed 4 Days

The office of The Roanoke Beacon will be closed after December 21, until Tuesday morning, in order to give members of the "force" their annual Christmas vacation. This is one of the few holiday occasions observed by this newspaper during the year, hence the reason for being closed several days. The office will be closed Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week, and Monday of next.

Everybody will be back on the job and will be ready for "business as usual" next Tuesday morning; meantime every member of the crew hopes every reader of the Beacon has the best, happiest, and merriest Christmas ever.