

County Auditor E. J. Spruill is recovering from an attack of pneumonia at his apartment here. Stricken suddenly the early part of last week, he was removed to a Rocky Mount hospital, but had recovered sufficiently to be able to return home this week. However, it probably will be several more days before he is able to return to his duties at the courthouse.

While listening to an early-morning radio program from Hollywood, Calif., last week, F. H. Modlin was surprised to hear his brother, Lt. Morton S. Modlin, formerly of Aho-kie, introduced and speak a few words. His brother is a bombardier with the Army Air Forces, stationed in Utah, and he just happened to be visiting in Hollywood at the time.

Spare Stamp No. 1 on the first page of War Ration Book Four is good for 5 points for the retail purchase of pork through Saturday, January 1. OPA validated the stamp to get the unexpectedly large civilian supply of pork into the hands of housewives.

Zeb Vance Norman, Jr., son of Attorney and Mrs. Z. V. Norman, of Plymouth, is now in training at Camp Fannin, Texas. It was learned this week. The young man was called into the Army November 29th and was only recently assigned to the Texas camp for the basic training course.

Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Robert B. Campbell, of Camp Patrick Henry, Va., visited Sergeant Campbell's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Campbell, here Tuesday night. They went on to Wilmington Wednesday to visit Mrs. Campbell's parents, but will return here next week to spend several days with Mr. and Mrs. Campbell.

According to Mayor B. G. Campbell, there is a meeting of the City Council scheduled for Monday night. No meeting was held this month, one reason or another preventing each time.

It was announced by the county agent's office this week that there were a few farmers' almanacs for 1944 on hand for distribution to those who requested them. The supply is limited, and they will be given away on a first-come-first-served basis.

Sweet potato prices have been frozen at all levels from country shipper through retailer on the basis of the individual seller's "high" for the five-day period from December 17 through December 21, 1943. It was announced last week by the OPA. This action was taken because prices at larger markets recently had been advancing at an inflationary rate.

Three Tried This Week by Recorder

The County Recorder's Court tried three persons Tuesday. One case of assault was continued from last week, while the others consisted of stealing and exceeding the speed limit. Judge Gaylord levied one fine and gave the choice in one case of suspension of sentence upon payment of a fine.

The proceedings were as follows: Georgia West, colored, of Plymouth, was accused of assault with a deadly weapon. The defendant entered a plea of not guilty and was found not guilty for lack of evidence.

Louis Belcher, colored, of Plymouth, was charged with stealing. The defendant pleaded guilty and was sentenced to six months on the county roads. The sentence will be suspended if he pays \$50 and court costs.

Auston Pierce Adams, of Portsmouth, Va., pleaded guilty to exceeding the speed limit and was fined \$15 and court costs.

Resume Registration for ABC Books Tuesday

J. R. Campbell, chairman of the county ABC board, said this week that those who have not yet applied for their whiskey ration book No. 2 would have a chance to do so on any Tuesday after the first of January, beginning next Tuesday, January 4. The registration was suspended December 1, and no books have been issued since that time.

Mrs. Hermine Ramsey will accept the applications and issue the books to those qualified at her office on Water Street, according to the chairman. Application can be made only on Tuesdays.

Official Name of Test Farm in County Changed From Blackland to Tidewater

It was announced last week by Dr. Julian Miller, director of the test farms division of the State Department of Agriculture, that the official name of the test farm in this county had been changed from Blackland to Tidewater.

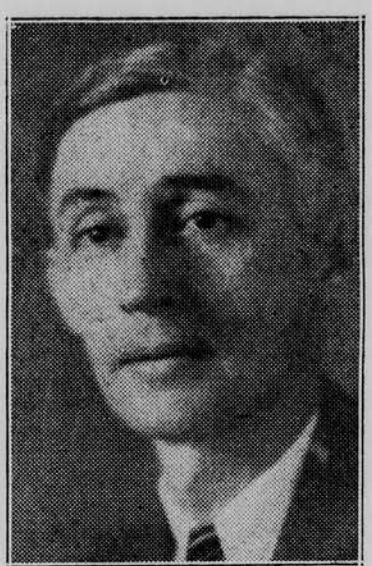
In changing the name of the farm, Dr. Miller explained that much of the valuable land at the old station in the Wenona section had been burned, and that

the name "Blacklands" is too synonymous with the fires which have raged beneath the soils of the old test farm since 1940.

The state recently acquired a new site for the experiment station work in this section when it bought the Elmhurst property near Roper, on highway 64. It is expected that much of the experimental work will be transferred to the new location during the coming year.

Campbell to Assume Duties as Register of Deeds Here Monday

REGISTER OF DEEDS



J. Robert Campbell, Plymouth merchant and chairman of the ABC Board, will become Washington County Register of Deeds next Monday, succeeding Mrs. Mary Cahoon Hawkins, who has resigned and will move to New Bern in the near future.

Other Changes in Official Family of County in Prospect

Several Prospective Candidates for Job as ABC Board Chairman

Several changes in the official family of Washington County are scheduled to be made in the coming few weeks. The first change will become effective next Monday, when the resignation of Mrs. Mary Cahoon Hawkins as register of deeds becomes effective. She will be succeeded in this office by J. R. Campbell, at the present time chairman of the Washington County ABC Board.

Mrs. Hawkins submitted her resignation to the county board at its regular meeting in December, to become effective January 1. Since the first is a legal holiday at the courthouse, Mr. Campbell is not expected to assume the duties as register of deeds until next Monday.

It is expected that Mr. Campbell will submit his resignation as chairman of the ABC board next Monday, as state law forbids any county official holding two positions. It is then anticipated that a special meeting will be called soon thereafter to select a new ABC chairman. The naming of this official is up to a special group, composed of members of the county board of commissioners, board of education and board of health.

While no formal applications have been filed for the position as chairman of the ABC board, since it has not been officially vacated as yet, it is understood that upwards of half a dozen persons will be candidates for the office.

Mr. Campbell will continue to operate his grocery store here until Saturday night of this week, he said yesterday. He has several prospective buyers, it is understood, but has not yet completed the sale. He has been in business here for many years and stated that he would miss greeting his many friends in his store. However, he urges them to call on him at the courthouse, where he will continue to serve them, although in a new capacity.

237 Soil Payments Made in County

It was announced at the AAA office here this week that soil-conservation and parity checks had been mailed to 237 applicants in the county in recent weeks. The total amount represented in the 237 applications was \$15,345.01. The checks are mailed directly to applicants from AAA headquarters in Washington, D. C.

It was stated that this represents about one-third of the total number of applications made by county farmers. Checks will be mailed to other applicants as rapidly as possible. Amounts of the individual checks are running about the same as they did last year. They represent payment for soil-building practices and a small parity payment on tobacco and cotton produced last season.

Schools of County Resume Sessions

All the schools in Washington County reopened yesterday after the Christmas holidays, with an attendance generally reported good, according to H. H. McLean, county superintendent of public instruction. There were unfounded rumors early in the week that the reopening of schools had been postponed until next Monday, and it was feared for a time that these rumors might affect attendance.

Mr. McLean said that attendance was better yesterday than it was when the schools closed week before last, indicating that sickness from influenza, which almost reached epidemic proportions at one time, was declining.

Body of Sam Mobley Found on Railroad Tracks Near Here

Had Been Run Over by Several Trains Monday, Officers State

The mangled remains of Sam Mobley, 59-year-old white farmer who lived on the Owens farm near Plymouth, were discovered on the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks only a few yards from the Conaby Creek trestle Monday afternoon around 5 o'clock. He was last seen alive in Plymouth about 3:30, and local police who investigated said it was believed he had been run over by two or three freight trains, as his body was badly mangled.

Local officials who made the investigation declined to express an opinion as to just how the man met his death, but they suggest that he might have gone to sleep on the tracks or that he might have suffered a sudden heart attack and fallen on the tracks. It was thought that he was taking a short cut down the tracks on his way home. His body was discovered by a small colored boy, who notified the police. Coroner Jack Horner was called to the scene, but decided that an inquest was not necessary.

Mr. Mobley was a native of Martin County and came to this section to live about five years ago from the Dardens section. He was a son of the late J. S. and Louise Clark Mobley, of the Cross Roads section of Martin County. He had farmed all his life and was an active member of the Cross Roads Christian church for about 35 years.

He was married to Miss Millie Coburn at Bear Grass on July 16, 1910, and is survived by his widow and twelve children: seven daughters, Mrs. Veatrice Crum, of Hampton, Va.; Mrs. Thelma Sawyer and Mrs. Annie Sawyer, of Plymouth; Misses Euzella, Grace, Vel Gray, and Lovie Brown Mobley, all of Plymouth; five sons, Grover, Biscoe and Cleo Elvert Mobley, of Plymouth; Thurman Mobley, of the U. S. Army, stationed at Camp Howze, Texas, and McLean Mobley, of Jamesville. He also leaves two brothers, Ed Mobley, of Everetts, and Claud Mobley, of Jamesville; one sister, Mrs. Henry Rawls, of Robersonville; and a half-sister, Mrs. Bessie Davis, of Williamston.

Funeral services will be held Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the home of his brother, Claud Mobley, near Jamesville, and interment will be made in the family plot near by. The Rev. W. B. Harrington, Baptist minister, will conduct the last rites.

Christmas Holidays Pass Very Quietly Throughout Section

But One Arrest Reported by Police Authorities Last Week-End

The long Christmas holiday week-end passed very quietly in this section; the death of Sam Mobley on the railroad tracks at the edge of Plymouth being the only untoward incident reported to police. No serious automobile accidents were reported, in marked contrast with conditions a few short years ago; and not a single arrest for drunkenness was reported during the whole of Christmas week.

Louis Belcher, colored, of Plymouth, was arrested Christmas Eve night, charged with stealing a coat from a colored woman in Byrd's store here; and that marked the only occasion the police were called in during the holiday period. He was tried in recorder's court Tuesday and given six months on the county farm, suspended upon payment of a fine of \$50 and costs. There was also one citation for speeding issued by a highway patrolman during the past week.

Not more than a half dozen fire-crackers were heard, which marked another departure from the regular order of things in the past. Last year, the fireworks supply was somewhat limited, but that Christmas was comparatively noisy compared with this year, when the noise makers were practically eliminated entirely.

There was a considerable amount of hunting over the week-end, but at the rate shells are being used up, this can hardly continue on a very large scale much longer, since they are now on the irreplaceable list. For the most part, county people spent the Christmas season quietly and at home, the gasoline shortage taking care of the travel situation.

New Year's Dance at Country Club Friday

About the only public celebration planned to welcome in the New Year here will be a buffet supper and dance given at the Country Club of Plymouth Friday night of this week, December 31, beginning at 9 p.m., and continuing until 2 a.m. New Year's Day. Both the general public and club members are invited to make reservations for the event.

Many Prominent Masons Expected Here January 4th

Grand Master Will Install Officers and Hold Get-Together Meeting

James W. Payne, of Salisbury, grand master of Masons in North Carolina, will visit the local lodge on Tuesday, January 4, instead of Wednesday, January 5, as previously announced, it was learned Monday from H. H. McLean, district deputy grand master. The grand master will install the new officers recently elected by Perseverance lodge and hold a general get-together for Masons who live within a 60-mile radius of Plymouth, it is stated.

Invitations have been sent to 16 lodges within the 60-mile radius to have representatives at the meeting here. The 16 lodges have a total membership of more than 1,040, and upwards of a 100 or more visitors are expected by local Masons.

In addition to the grand master, the following high-ranking grand lodge officials have indicated they would attend also: Deputy Grand Master Julius C. Hobbs, of Wilmington; Grand Secretary John H. Anderson and his assistant, William R. Smith, of Raleigh; Grand Junior Warden W. J. Bundy, of Greenville; Past Grand Master Charles B. Newcombe, of Wilmington; Past Grand Master J. Edward Allen, of Warrenton; Grand Lecturer Z. V. Snipes, of Dunn; and district deputy grand masters from Elizabeth City, Williamston and Rocky Mount.

This promises to be one of the largest Masonic gatherings ever held by the lodge. Certainly it will have the largest number of Masonic dignitaries ever to attend a meeting here. Mr. McLean said yesterday that he had already received word from Elizabeth City that 20 would come from there and the Windsor Lodge has written that it will have 10 representatives here.

Present plans call for the regular meeting of the local lodge to begin at 5 p.m., Tuesday, when the grand lodge officials will be received and the installation ceremony held. Immediately afterwards, about 6:30, a barbecue supper will be served and the get-together meeting held.

New officers to be installed are as follows: Edward L. Owens, master; E. D. Keel, senior warden; H. H. Allen, junior warden; B. G. Campbell, treasurer; John W. Darden, secretary; and the appointive officers which are to be named later by the incoming master. James W. Norman is the retiring master and will preside over the first session of the lodge.

Rat Campaigns To Be Conducted in County

A small supply of red squill poison has been received by the county agent's office and will be used to put on rat-elimination campaigns in three communities very shortly. It was stated this week. As soon as a supply of fish can be secured to be mixed with the poison as bait, it will be put out in the Skimmersville section around White's store, in the Chapel Hill community, and in the Wenona section.

Two other communities have asked that drives be held there, and their request will be granted if an additional supply of poison can be secured.

Presbyterian Church Services Announced

By Miss Rachel Hassell
Sunday, 3:30 p.m.—Sunday School will meet at the home of Mrs. Bonnie Lilley. Let us build up again our former good attendance.

Tuesday, January 4th, 7:30—The Ladies Bible Hour will meet again as usual. The place of meeting will be announced on Sunday. Let us all try to attend well.

Miss Norman Given Assignment to Duty

Ensign Barbara W. Norman, first Washington County woman to become a commissioned officer in the U. S. Naval Reserve, has been assigned to active duty at Vero Beach, Fla., effective December 20th. It was learned this week from her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Z. V. Norman, of Plymouth. Miss Norman completed her training and indoctrination course at Smith College, Northampton, Mass., and was commissioned an ensign on December 14th.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman attended the graduation exercises at Northampton and then spent four days in New York City with their daughter while she was on leave before reporting for duty at the Jacksonville, Fla., Naval Air Station. Ensign Norman was later transferred to Vero Beach to begin active service with the Navy.

Before enlisting in the Waves early last fall, Miss Norman was high school teacher of home economics at Lincolnton, in this state. She holds a B. S. degree from Salem College, Winston-Salem.

Tax Listing for 1944 Will Get Underway in County Next Monday

ENSIGN IN WAVES



Miss Barbara W. Norman, of Plymouth, became the first Washington County woman to receive a commission in the U. S. Naval Reserve December 14th, when she graduated from the Midshipmen's School at Northampton, Mass., and was commissioned an ensign.

Personal Property Schedule of Values Set Up Last Week

Taxpayers Urged To List Early To Avoid Last-Minute Rush

The annual task of listing all property in Washington County will get underway next Monday, January 3rd. It was learned at the courthouse following the special meeting of list takers held Tuesday night of last week. All real estate, personal property and poll taxes must be listed during the month of January in the four townships of the county; and penalties are provided for those who fail or neglect to see their respective list-takers during this period.

County Tax Supervisor E. F. Swain was ill in a hospital last week and could not be present at the meeting, as also was E. J. Spruill, county auditor. It is therefore impossible to learn the exact schedules of the various township list takers, but placards containing this information are being posted in the several sections, and county citizens are advised to consult the schedules for dates and places when the list takers will be nearest them and list their holding at such time.

Due to the illness of the supervisor, Mr. Swain, it was impossible to learn the details of the scale of values agreed on last week.

There will be very little change in this year's schedule of personal property values from that of last year, it was indicated by E. G. Arps, chairman of the board of county commissioners, following a meeting of list takers of the various townships held here Tuesday night of last week. There will be no changes in the valuation of real property, except where improvements have been added or damage suffered during the past 12 months.

Mr. Arps said he understood there was a very little change in the valuation of spersonal property. Automobiles will be listed according to make, model and type, and a uniform scale was agreed upon for livestock of all kinds, meat and lard, farm crops in storage, and other like property.

Mrs. Hermine Ramsey is the list (See TAX LISTING, Page 4)

Mrs. Clara Ayers Dies Near Dardens

Mrs. Clara Ayers, widow of O. T. Ayers, died at the home of her brother, John Swinson, in the Dardens community at 1:15 o'clock last Monday morning following a lingering illness. While she had been in declining health during the greater part of three years, she was confined to her bed for only two days before her death.

The daughter of the late David and Lucy Johnson Swinson, she was born in Martin County on March 25, 1876. Some time after her marriage she made her home in Suffolk, living there until about three years ago when she went to live with her brother.

She leaves one son, O. T. Ayers, Jr., of the armed forces believed to be stationed somewhere in Italy. She also leaves besides her brother with whom she made her home three sisters, Mrs. S. F. Davis, of Dardens; Mrs. W. W. Sullivan, of West Norfolk; and Mrs. Cephus Meads, of Norfolk.

Funeral services were conducted from the late home Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock by Rev. Lee A. Phillips, Plymouth Baptist minister. Burial was in the Cedar Hill Cemetery, Suffolk. Mrs. Ayers was a faithful member of the Baptist church in Suffolk for a number of years.

Few Places in Washington County To Observe New Year Holiday Saturday

Business and industry in general throughout the county will pay scant attention to New Year's Day Saturday. The Branch Banking and Trust Company, the ABC stores and county offices will be closed for the day, but local stores and industrial establishments, with few exceptions, will be on a "business as usual" basis.

American Fork & Hoe Company plant will be closed for the day, but the North Carolina Pulp Company and the Plymouth Box & Panel plants will be in production as usual. The pulp plant is scheduled to resume pulp production Saturday after being shut down all week for the periodic overhaul and repair of machinery and equipment.

This year there is very little talk of the various "bowl" football games locally, and few people will even bother to tune in to bear those that are being played. So far as most of Washington County is concerned, New Year's Day will just be another Saturday.

The post offices throughout the county will render a reduced schedule of services, there being no rural or city carrier deliveries, but dispatches will be made and incoming mail put up for those who have lock boxes.

It is understood that the

Gas Allotments Being Made for Trucks If All Regulations Are Complied With

It was announced at the office of the local rationing board yesterday that truck owners who wish to apply for their gasoline allotments for the first quarter of 1944 must present their new 1944 license certificate, their ODT Certificate of War Necessity, and their gasoline and tire inspection records, properly filled out.

It is also explained that applications may be made by mail if the cards and certificates outlined above are sent in with the applications. However, no al-

lotments can be made until all this information is furnished the board. Gasoline tickets will be mailed out the following day if the applications are executed correctly.

It is also explained by the local board that no temporary allotments of gasoline can be made under new rulings. Formerly, if the regular allotment was held up for any reason, it was possible to secure a temporary book until the matter was straightened out. This is no longer permitted.