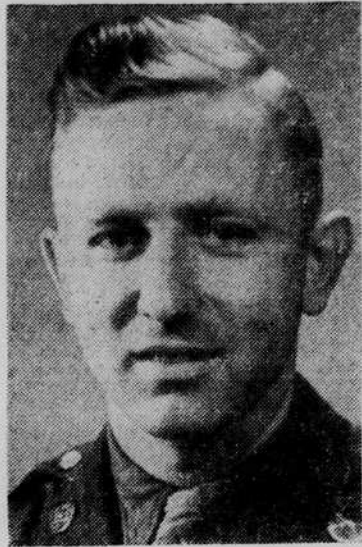


Crews Arriving Here This Week to Start on Housing Development

KILLED IN ACTION



Sgt. Roscoe J. Browning, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Browning, of Plymouth, was killed in action in Italy on September 3, according to a message received here from the War Department Tuesday of last week.

Richard West, owner, reopened his Plymouth Barber Shop this week at its new location, on the second floor of the old Brinkley Hotel Building...

Farmers are finding all tobacco markets in the eastern belt glutted. It is not unusual for tobacco to be placed on floors and remain there for upwards of a week before a sale can be secured.

Relatives in Washington received word Sunday that Sgt. George F. Morgan died August 4th from wounds received in action in France on August 3.

The Roanoke River flood which caused some damage upstream is not expected to reach serious proportions here. Swamps are flooded, and the water level is up some, but it is only in very exceptional cases that damage is caused in this area from floods.

The annual meeting of stockholders of the Plymouth Building & Loan Association will be held in the municipal council room here Wednesday, October 12, it was announced this week.

The firemen defeated the Lions Club last night in a free-scoring contest, 21 to 15, in the fourth game of the "series to end all series."

Leslie B. Spruill, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan W. Spruill, of Roper, was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant September 1. He is a finance officer stationed at Cincinnati, Ohio.

Edgar S. Stillman Wounded in France

Parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Stillman, of Plymouth, Notified Monday

A telegram from the War Department was received Monday of this week by Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Stillman, of Plymouth, advising them that their son Pfc. Edgar S. Stillman was seriously wounded somewhere in France the seventh of this month.

Private Stillman is a native of Plymouth, having lived here until he entered the service in February, 1942. He attended high school here and worked at the Pulp Mill for about a year before he went into the Army.

After completing his training Private Stillman went overseas in April of this year and was stationed in England. He did not participate in the invasion, but followed about two weeks later and has been in France since then. He will be 22 years of age in October.

Roper Churches Stage Drive to Gather Clothing for Victims of European War

The churches of Roper are sponsoring the collection of old clothing for the destitute in war-torn Europe. It was announced this week. Directing an appeal to the people of that section, Mrs. C. L. Walker, president of the W.S.C.S., there, issued the following statement:

Over \$14,000 Being Paid Employees of Schools This Week

Pay Day Moved U Two Weeks Because of Long Lay-Off Period

Pay day is coming early this year for principals, teachers, janitors and bus drivers of county schools, arrangements being made this week to send out the first month's salary checks from the office of the county superintendent, H. H. McLean.

The total payroll for the 103 teachers and principals, 5 janitors and 21 bus drivers amounts to \$14,297.81 for the first month. This figure will probably advance next month, as there are four vacant teaching positions, two colored and two white, it was stated.

The aggregate amounts paid to the various groups are as follows: Three white principals get a total of \$714.08; 14 white school teachers, \$1,232.33; 38 white elementary school teachers, \$4,760.62; 2 colored principals, \$452.83; 4 colored high school teachers, \$554.33; 42 colored elementary school teachers, \$5,935; 3 white janitors, \$267.30; 2 colored janitors, \$97.82; 20 white bus drivers, \$270; and 1 colored bus driver, \$13.50.

The figures above are based on base pay plus a special war bonus, and are, of course subject to retirement and withholding tax deductions. The retirement pay is 4 per cent, while the withholding tax averages about 10 per cent. A few married teachers who do not claim any personal exemptions are taxed with \$31 per month for the withholding deductions.

Revival Held Last Week At Church in Creswell

Creswell.—Last week a series of revival services was held at the Methodist church by the Rev. W. Parkin, of Stumpy Point. The meetings were well attended and described as a success in every way. Baptismal services were held Sunday morning at the church by the pastor, the Rev. R. N. McDonald, assisted by Mr. Parkin.

War Fund Drive Will Begin Soon

Arrangements for the United War Fund Drive in Washington County will be completed in a few days and full details announced, it was stated this week by P. Bruce Bateman, county chairman. The campaign will be conducted sometime during the month of October.

Material Is Being Placed and Some Work Underway

Project To Be Completed in 90 Days If Sufficient Labor Obtained

Construction crews started arriving this week to begin work in the next few days on the housing development recently authorized by the War Production Board for employees of the North Carolina Pulp Company who are now commuting to work here from their homes in other sections.

It is understood that workmen for the Weaver Construction Company, of Greensboro, will begin arriving today and that they will immediately start work on the Methodist parsonage, for which priority was recently granted. Material has already been placed on the lot, located on Latham Lane, and work will begin there immediately, it is stated.

It was learned yesterday that at least 15 of the 40 houses in the initial building project will be located in the village near the country club, the other 25 to be built on East Third Street Extended in the town. Each of the two construction companies has a contract for 20 houses. According to the original plans, 10 of the houses will have three bedrooms, while the other 30 will have but two bedrooms. They will be of one-story frame construction, representing a total investment of approximately \$4,500 each.

The two-bedroom houses will have approximately 800 feet of floor space each and will be built to conform to FHA specifications. Hardwood floors, tile bath, electric kitchen with built-in cabinets, and other modern features are called for in each of the houses. They will be equipped with (See HOUSING, Page Four)

War Fund Drive Will Begin Soon

Details of Campaign To Be Announced Next Week; Goal Is \$5,000

Arrangements for the United War Fund Drive in Washington County will be completed in a few days and full details announced, it was stated this week by P. Bruce Bateman, county chairman. The campaign will be conducted sometime during the month of October.

Mr. Bateman has indicated that he hoped to put on a whirlwind drive and wind the matter up in about a week. The county quota, for both local and national purposes, totals \$5,000.

County Tax Sale Is Set for Monday

Sale of county property for delinquent taxes will be held in front of the courthouse door at noon next Monday, and upwards of 500 parcels will be placed on the block. It is expected that the tax certificates will be bought in by the county, with possibly one or two tracts drawing some private bidding.

Revival Begins Sunday Night at Baptist Church

Rev. LEE A. PHILLIPS, Pastor A revival begins at the Ludford Memorial Baptist Church Sunday night and will continue through the week. Rev. W. C. Frances, of Harrelsville, will be the guest speaker for the week. Everyone is invited to come to these services which will begin at 7:30 each evening.

Board Agriculture Here This Week to Inspect New Farm

May Get Prisoner of War Labor for Erection of New Buildings

Members of the State Board of Agriculture, headed by Commissioner W. Kerr Scott and Fred E. Miller, director of the division of test farms, were in the county Monday inspecting the 2,000-acre Tidewater Test Farm, five miles east of Plymouth on Highway 64. They were accompanied by James L. Rea, jr., of Wenona, who is in charge of the new experiment station, County Agent W. V. Hays, and Thompson Greenwood, of Raleigh, publicity director of the State Department of Agriculture.

The party arrived here at noon Monday and spent the remainder of the day going over the property, which was recently bought by the state. They discussed improvements and the building program which are to get underway there soon. It was stated that the main dwelling on the farm will be utilized, although extensive repairs will have to be made. Mr. and Mrs. Rea will live in this home.

A large number of barns, stock-houses, and other necessary outbuildings must be built. The state officials said that application would be made for prisoner of war labor to help in the building program. It is understood that there are a number of carpenters and other artisans among German prisoners stationed in the state, and their services will be sought from the Army.

Shortage of lumber and labor has been the chief hold up in starting the building program, it was explained. It is possible that a sawmill will be put on the property to cut lumber needed for the farm buildings. Since the state recently sold its property in Wenona, the work at the new farm must be completed by January 1, and all operations transferred there by that time.

Members of the inspection party left Monday afternoon to make a series of inspections of other new test farm properties in the western part of the state bought this year.

Mrs. Davenport Is Elected President State Club Women

Prominent in Home Demonstration Club Work for Number Years

Mrs. Edison Davenport, of Mackeys and Plymouth, was last week elected president of the North Carolina Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs at a state council meeting held at State College in Raleigh. Mrs. Davenport has been active in county home demonstration club work for a number of years, serving as president of the county federation, and she has held office in the state organization for the past seven years.

It is a decided honor to Mrs. Davenport and the county, as it marks the first time a Washington County woman has ever served as head of the state organization. There are 2,200 clubs and approximately 45,000 club women in the state.

At the state council meeting, attended by 300 rural women, a resolution was passed urging women to study issues and principles now before the nation and exercise their right to vote. Other resolutions favored employment of competent teachers in the schools with increased salaries; better medical care and health services for rural people; more careful study of juvenile delinquency and crime; employment of more home demonstration agents in the industrial centers and in the counties; and on other matters connected with farm life.

All members of the federation council were entertained at tea by Mrs. J. Melville Broughton at the Governor's mansion Thursday afternoon, when officers were elected. Other officers elected were: Mrs. A. W. Pierce, of Wayne County, first vice president; Mrs. Glenn Duncan, of Chatham County, second vice president; Mrs. George Apperson, of Davie County, third vice president; Mrs. P. P. Gregory, of Camden County, recording secretary; Mrs. Eva Person, of Franklin County, treasurer; Mrs. H. M. Johnson, of Lenoir County, chairman of the Jane S. McKimmon Loan Fund Committee; and Mrs. Estelle T. Smith of State College, counselor.

Relatives Notified Levin Ange Seriously Wounded

Mrs. Tom Sanderson, of Plymouth, received a message from the War Department on Tuesday of this week, stating that her brother, Pfc. Levin W. Ange, was seriously wounded somewhere in France, but no details were given. Private Ange worked for four years in Washington, D. C., before volunteering for the Army. He was accepted, and placed in the infantry and trained for six months before going overseas. He is now 22 years of age.

Primary School Condemned Following Meeting Thursday

Action Is Forced by Petition Following Meeting Last Week

History of Local Situation Shows Complications Began Years Ago

Dissatisfaction over continued delays in improvements to local school facilities "boiled over" at the first meeting of the local parent-teacher association last Thursday night, resulting in condemnation by fire authorities Saturday of the Old Hampton Academy building on Main Street. This action left 212 first, second and third grade pupils and six teachers with no place in which to hold classes after just one week of the new term.

The entire school situation here is a mass of complications, extending back over possibly a score of years, embracing the consolidation program in the early twenties, the depression, lack of county finances, then sudden industrial expansion, the war, and is coupled with both public and official indifference.

The Hampton Building was erected shortly after the turn of the century and was adequate for upwards of 20 years. Then the present high school building was planned just prior to general consolidation of rural schools in the twenties. This latter fact rendered the new building inadequate within a few years of its completion, and use of the Hampton building was resumed for the primary grades.

The depression came along, with lowered tax values, increased taxes and general business stagnation. The county was unable to match Federal grants available during this period on account of its bonded indebtedness already being high. Possibly the best opportunities were missed in the late thirties, when grants were still available and the county began to work out of the hole it was in. A new building was secured for Creswell about this time, but interest in schools generally was at low ebb, and no over-all program was pushed.

In 1937 the pulp mill was located near here, but not in Washington County, although most of the people connected with it lived in this county and sent their children to school here. This resulted in an increased enrollment for the local school, while the added tax valuation of the pulp mill property went to the adjacent county of Martin.

The wiring in the building is of a type long since discontinued in school buildings and considered dangerous by many authorities. Heating of the class rooms is by stoves. A resume of the conditions listed in the report submitted shows: 1. Improper exits from the second floor class rooms; 2. Bad conditions of exterior walls; 3. Overloaded floors; 4. Inferior wiring; 5. General wear and decay of structural members throughout the building.

Legion Condemns Ban on Festival

Resolution Says Post Not Allowed to Present Its Side of Case

Following is the text of a resolution passed at a recent meeting of the James E. Jethro Post of the American Legion and for which publication has been requested:

Whereas, at a regular meeting of James E. Jethro Post No. 164 of the American Legion, in Plymouth, N. C., on the 8th day of September, 1944, a resolution was adopted unanimously, by the membership, condemning the recent action of the defacto Board of Health relative to prohibiting the annual Fall Carnival of the American Legion in Washington County, alleging that the carnival would add to the danger and spread of the recent Polio outbreak—now therefore: Be it resolved, that the meeting as held by the defacto Board of Health, notice of which was not given to all its members, nor to the American Legion so that they might present their side of the controversy, and inasmuch as the revenue derived from the annual carnival is devoted to the charitable and educational growth of the community; and, further, that other places of amusement in the town and county were permitted to continue their operations: We, the American Legion, feel that both ourselves and the community at large have been grossly discriminated against and condemn and deplore the recent action of the aforesaid Board of Health. Entered and inscribed on the Minutes of James E. Jethro Post No. 164 American Legion this the 22nd day of September, 1944.

Two Groceries To Observe Wednesday Half-Holidays

Effective this week, it was announced that the Pender and A. & P. stores in Plymouth would be closed at 1 p.m. each Wednesday afternoon on a year-around basis. The store hours on other week days will remain the same as at present. An attempt was made last week to have all grocery stores observe the weekly half-day closing, but several of the independent merchants decided against it. The management of the A. & P. and Pender's stores request their patrons to cooperate by buying their groceries during the morning hours on Wednesdays.

Official Records In School Closing

In this article are presented the official records issued in connection with the closing of the Hampton Academy school building here last Saturday. They include a copy of the official notification that the building was subject to condemnation, written on March 28, 1941; a copy of the petition signed by local citizens last Friday, asking that the building be condemned; and a copy of the order closing the building posted Saturday by I. M. Warren, chief of the Plymouth Fire Department.

Inspection of the building was made by Sherwood Brockwell, state fire marshal, on March 21, 1941. Following this, an official notification was addressed to H. H. McLean, superintendent, Washington County Schools, by the late Dan C. Boney, at that time Insurance Commissioner. This notice, dated March 25, 1941, and carrying the official seal of the Insurance Department, reads as follows:

I have before me a copy of a report made by a deputy of this Department, on March 21st, 1941, inspecting the Hampton School Building (Hampton Academy) in Plymouth.

From the contents of this report this two story school building, with outside walls of brick and interior of wood-joint construction, it is of a type which was popular for city and town use prior to the beginning of the great crusade for education led by Aycock, McIver and Joyner in the early years of the present century, many of this type buildings in this state having, in the past forty years, burned or been abandoned as unsuitable for school purposes.

This report lists one severely inside wooden stairway serving three rooms on the second floor, this one inside stairway augmented by two non-standard wooden exits in the rear of the building. These exits have stairways which in addition to being of wood, have more than the safe number of treads to the unit and would, in all probability, collapse under fire conditions.

The location of two of the three entrances to these two outside exits are such as to create panic conditions on the second floor in case of fire on the first floor.

The outside walls of the building show pronounced cracks in several places and an attempt has been made to correct this by the use of iron rods, but this has been unsuccessful. The floors of the building are badly worn and there is evidence of partial failure of the floor joists in all of the three second floor class rooms and the corridor between.

The wiring in the building is of a type long since discontinued in school buildings and considered dangerous by many authorities.

Heating of the class rooms is by stoves. A resume of the conditions listed in the report submitted shows:

- 1. Improper exits from the second floor class rooms; 2. Bad conditions of exterior walls; 3. Overloaded floors; 4. Inferior wiring; 5. General wear and decay of structural members throughout the building.

Under the provisions of Section 2773 of the Building Laws of North Carolina and other Sections dealing with exits, etc., this is to notify you, as Superintendent, that this building is subject to condemnation procedure and to further notify you to discontinue the use of the second floor for school or assembly purposes until after the conditions listed above have been remedied.

A subsequent report will, no doubt, be filed by the State Board of Education relative to light, ventilation size of rooms and size of playground.

In view of these, and being cognizant of the historical value of Hampton Academy, please let me suggest that in lieu of removing the building (one alternative of Section 2773) that the use of the whole building be discontinued for school purposes and that necessary repairs be made to preserve and convert this structure to a library or some other public use in which the occupancy will be limited to relatively few people at a time and voluntary.

Trusting you will give this matter your immediate attention and with kindest personal regards. At the Lions Club and Plymouth Parent-Teacher meetings last Thursday night, Mr. Brockwell read the above official notification and commented at some length on the condition. (See OFFICIAL RECORDS, Page 4)

Office of Ration Board Here Will Be Closed To Public All Day Tomorrow

The office of the Washington County War Price and Rationing Board will be closed to the public all day tomorrow, Friday, September 29, in order to complete an inventory of ration currency, make out monthly reports, and perform other like tasks, Mrs. J. K. Reid, chief clerk, announced yesterday. All members of the office force will be on the job, but there are so many things to be done this week that this was considered the best method of getting the work caught up.

Seek Temporary Quarters for 212 Pupils, 6 Teachers

County Board Calls on State Authorities for Aid in Solving Problem

The county board of education yesterday afternoon called on state school authorities to help solve the problem of finding temporary quarters for 212 children and six teachers of the three primary grades in the Plymouth school who were displaced last Saturday, when the old Hampton Academy building was condemned and its use for school purposes ordered discontinued by the chief of the local fire department, I. M. Warren. Chief Warren took the action after he was requested to do so in a petition signed by 136 persons here Friday.

Dr. Clyde Irwin, state superintendent of public instruction, in a telephone conversation last Wednesday afternoon with L. E. Hassell, chairman of the county board of education, promised to send W. F. Crede, state director of schoolhouse planning, to Plymouth immediately to assist in working out the local problem. In the meantime, all attempts to arrange temporary quarters for the primary grades have ceased until the state expert arrives, and the children are remaining at home.

The call on state authorities was made yesterday after several suggestions for temporary quarters had been studied and rejected by county school authorities. It is felt that objections to use of the three rooms on the first floor of the Hampton building can be removed by relatively minor alterations. However, three additional rooms will be needed, and it is here that officials have run into trouble.

It was first proposed that three temporary classrooms be made out of the old agriculture department workshop on the grounds at the high school building. It was then found that this structure had an average pitch of but 8 feet, which would make it unbearably hot in the spring and early summer months. At best, it is believed more than a year will be required to plan, finance and erect a permanent building, so this plan was abandoned.

The county board next considered repairing the old high school gymnasium, and arranging three classrooms in this structure and this was the plan finally agreed upon. However the cost of this proposal, coupled with the fact that it would be purely temporary and a total loss when permanent arrangements could be made, aroused doubts as to its feasibility; and it was then that state officials were called.

Several meetings have been held by the local board of education, one Monday night jointly with the county board of commissioners and the fire chief. Both boards have agreed upon the urgent necessity of additional facilities here on a permanent basis, but they have not been able to work out a temporary arrangement for holding classes.

300 Absentee Ballots Sent Men in Service

Walter K. White, of Skippersville, chairman of the county board of elections, said last week-end that applications had been received for about 300 absentee ballots to be sent to men and women in the armed services. He also said that about 50 ballots had already been marked and returned to him for the general election on November 7.

According to Mr. White, the ballots already returned are from men in practically every theatre of war. Ballots have been mailed to all those for whom requests have been made, but it is possible that some will not get them in time to vote in the election in November.

Relatives of service men who wish to apply for ballots are requested to forward names and addresses to the county chairman and ballots will be sent.

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