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and
Washington County News

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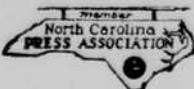
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October 5, 1944

**A Note on Reopening
The Primary School**

If competent authorities declare the primary school building in Plymouth is safe or can be made safe for temporary use, there is no disposition here to question the decision of county school officials to repair and re-open the structure. Immediate classroom space is needed for the 212 children who have been out of school for two weeks, and this is of first consideration.

However, unless these same officials start planning now to replace at the earliest possible moment this totally inadequate building, they are assuming a grave responsibility with potentially serious consequences—both to themselves and to the children who are forced to go to school there.

A resume of the hazards of this building includes the following: (1) Unsafe exits from second-floor classrooms; (2) bad condition of exterior walls; (3) overloaded floors; (4) inferior wiring; (5) general wear and decay; and (6) heating by stoves. Possibly some of these faults will be corrected before the building is put to use again; certainly, not all of them can be remedied.

Aside from this, there is question as to light; ventilation, size of rooms and size of playground contained in the report made by the state insurance department three and a half years ago.

There is a vast difference in safety and health factors required in any private building and a building that is used for public-school purposes.

Under state law, a child is required to attend school until he attains a certain age; he must go whether or not he is afraid of it or likes it. In private buildings, use is purely voluntary; nobody is required by law to go into them or remain in them for any definite period of time.

The same law that says a child must attend school says that county officials must provide safe and adequate facilities for that school. To say, as some do, that the Hampton building is as good now as it was when erected 40 years ago is not any kind of answer. In the first place, it is not true; and, second, we can no more teach school in the manner of 40 years ago than we can fight this war with weapons or methods used 40 years ago—or even 20 years ago.

The local problem can be solved—not all at once, but a start can be made right now. A plan must be developed, cost estimated, and then the ways and means of financing can be considered. The first step is to provide a permanent building to house the six primary classes from the Hampton school, and then we can go on from there at a later date, as necessary.

This business of waiting around until after the war, when we hope Uncle Sam or somebody will come along and hand us a few school buildings out of a clear sky is all right for those who believe in Santa Claus. But most parents of school children know who Santa Claus is; and they also know that they have never gotten anything worth while except by sweating for it themselves.

Rightly or wrongly, a good many local people feel that county officials are simply stalling when they propose reopening the Hampton building with only token repairs. The drastic and possibly ill-advised action taken at the recent parent-teacher meeting, resulting in condemnation of the old school building, is evidence that parents here are not in a mood to be put off indefinitely.

Members of the Board of Education and County Commissioners: Please, let's get down to cases on plans for permanent improvements—quickly and effectively.

What About Reconversion?
By RUTH TAYLOR

You know how we run a word to death. Well, the present fad is for the word "reconversion." It is a good thought-provoking word—but there is one meaning of it which I don't think has been properly discussed, and which is even more important than business reconversion.

It is the reconversion, not of man power, but of mental power, of unity power. The force that backs our fighting men is not merely force of arms. It is the force of coordinated thought. It is practical working together.

We have learned in war how im-

portant it is to put aside our personal preferences and to do a job that is in the common interest. Are we, when the war is over, going to forget our hard learned lesson and slump back into a selfish way of life? Are we going to scrap the plant we have built, the cooperative machine that did the job? Are we going to revert to bickering among ourselves?

Why cannot we reconvert this moral force and carry on our crusade? All we need to do is to change the objective of our war—to fight conditions, not men.

We have had a man-power shortage because we had to produce so many weapons of destruction. Cannot we, if we turn the same energy to effect, have full employment producing those things which make life more enjoyable?

Instead of building the paraphernalia of war, cannot we build homes? If we fought slum conditions, poverty and disease with one tenth of the energy we have put into fighting people, we would destroy an olden enemy and assure the future for those who follow. We have worked hard to make our soldiers healthy and strong—to face death and mutilation. Cannot we work as hard to make our children healthy and strong, to wipe out the plagues of disease?

When in forums, my audiences express concern about the problem of peace, I ask how many are doing community war work. Most of them are. Then I ask how many gave as much time to their community in peace. The silence is awful. However, there was a man once who broke it by saying, "We get it."

Reconvert to peace by all means—but do a complete job with the same energy used in war. Can't you see what a Utopia America could become? And we could bring it about!

**Creswell Girl on Editorial
Staff of Dormitory Paper**

Miss Helen Oneida Davis, of Portsmouth, Va., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim T. Davis, of Creswell, was one of the 8 girls out of 273 elected to the editorial staff of the Wendell Neville Dormitory paper recently. Miss Davis graduated from Creswell High school in 1943 and has been employed at the Norfolk Navy Yard since three weeks after her graduation.

Within a month after she went to work at the Navy Yard she was one of 10 girls out of 1,000 elected gas warden runner. Her parents and friends in the county are proud of the excellent progress she is making in her work at Portsmouth.

**Younger Men Still
Preferred by Army**

**Most of Those Called Dur-
ing Remainder of Year
To Be Under 26**

In a recent letter to local board members, General Lewis B. Hershey, director of the Selective Service System, outlined the requirements of the armed forces for the remainder of the current year. He stated that approximately 100,000 men would be needed each month, and he outlined the policies that should govern the selection of the men by local draft boards.

General Hershey stated that the demand continued for younger men in the services, and that at the present time it appeared there would be sufficient men under 26 years of age to largely fill the calls for the remainder of 1944. Those over 26 years of age who do not qualify for occupational deferments should readily supply the balance, he said.

Commenting on the encouraging news that is coming from various war fronts, General Hershey said the fact remained that the job of Selective Service is far from finished, in spite of good reports on the progress of the war. Reemployment respon-

**Preston C. Midgette Is
Promoted in Pacific Area**

Preston C. Midgette, formerly of Plymouth, has been promoted to the rank of technician, fourth grade, in his field artillery unit now in the South Pacific, the Army Public Relations Department announced recently.

Sergeant Midgette attended the Plymouth High School and was an active member of the Methodist church here. Prior to his enlistment he was employed by the Plymouth Oil Company.

Sergeant Midgette has also been awarded the Good Conduct Medal and the Asiatic-Pacific campaign bar with a battle star for action on Bougainville. His wife, Mrs. Margaret T. Midgette, resides at Manchester, Route 1, N. C.

Here from Richlands

Mrs. Elijah Newbold and family of Richlands spent last week with her mother, Mrs. Betty Sitterson.

Miss Joyce Newbold, of Richlands spent last week with Miss Ruby Bowen.

Misses, coupled with normal operation of the classification and selection processes, require the continued efforts of local board members he emphasized, at the same time expressing appreciation for the vital part local boards are playing in administration of the selective service system.

Spending Furlough Here

Pvt. William N. Sitterson is spending a few days furlough with his mother, Mrs. Betty Sitterson.

Spends Week Here

Miss Joyce Newbold, of Richlands spent last week with Miss Ruby Bowen.

**ANNOUNCING REMOVAL OF
PLYMOUTH
Barber Shop
To Second Floor of Brinkley Hotel
Building
OVER WOMBLE'S DRUG STORE**

**We are Grateful for Your Past
Patronage and Hope You Will
Visit Us at Our New Location**

Richard West

Our thanks to
a Country Editor



You get a pretty good view of the world from a small-town newspaper office. Sometimes you see things that other folks overlook. For instance, this frank statement by the editor of *The Dierks (Arkansas) Banner*:

The Banner is one of the last papers in the country to raise its subscription price, many over the U. S. having done so a year or more ago. The cost of practically everything that goes into the production of a newspaper has advanced, except electricity used in running the machinery and lighting the plant. In normal times there was little if any profit in subscriptions at \$1.00 a year. If the information contained in even a newspaper publication

We're grateful to the editor for pointing out a fact more and more people are realizing—that at a time when most things are scarce and expensive, electricity is still plentiful and cheap.

That just goes to show what companies like ours can do for you by hard work and experience and sound business management.

**NATIONAL NEWSPAPER
WEEK OCT. 1st-8th**



THIS message will appear during National Newspaper Week in 84 newspapers in communities served by the Virginia Electric and Power Company. It is our salute to the great American Free Press, of which these newspapers are an integral and important part.

**VIRGINIA ELECTRIC
AND POWER COMPANY**

**Farm Machinery
REMOVED FROM RATION LIST
See Us For the Following Items:**

IN STOCK

**TURNER PEANUT
Pickers - Hay Balers**

Nixon Peanut Diggers
DIGS AND SHAKES PEANUTS

HOUSE
CHEVROLET COMPANY
Jack W. House, Mgr. Plymouth, N. C.

**Help Us Conserve Our
Bag Supply . . .
BRING A SHOPPING
BAG NEXT TIME !!**

PENDER

Pure Lard 1-lb 18c 4-lb 70c
Cheese Land o' Lakes 8-oz Pkg 20c
Tomatoes New Pack No. 2 Can 11c
Orange Juice Florida 46-oz Can 45c

Aunt Jemima
Pancake Flour
20-oz Pkg 13c

**TRIANGLE
HOME STYLE
PICKLES**
12-oz Jar 12c

**LIBBY'S
SWEET PICKLE
RELISH**
32-oz. jar 24c

NBC Crackers 1-lb Pkg 19c
Carrots No. 2 can 10c
Flour 10-lb Bag 54c
Flour 10-lb Bag 67c
Cocktail 18-oz Can 15c
Appetizers No. 2 Can 27c

**Double-Fresh
COFFEE**
D. P. BLEND 1-lb 24c
GOLDEN BLEND 2-lb 41c

GREEN CABBAGE, 2 lbs 9c
STRING BEANS, 2 lbs. 24c
HONEY DEW MELLON, lb. 10c
CALIF. ORANGES, 5 lbs. 55c
GRAPEFRUITS, 3 for 27c
COLLARDS, 3 lbs 25c

FAT BACK, lb. 18c
RIB SIDE, lb. 22c
FRANKS, Armour's Star, lb. 32c
OLD SMOKED SIDE, lb. 37c

**WE CLOSE WEDNESDAY At 1 P. M.
THANK YOU!**

Toilet Soap
Palmolive 3 Reg. Cakes 21c
Medium Size Super Suds Pkg 10c
Laundry Soap
Octagon 3 Bars 14c
Soap Powder
Octagon 3 Lge. Pkgs 14c

Facial Soap
Woodbury's 3 Cakes 24c
Household Cleanser
Sunbrite 3 Cans 15c
Plain or Quick Small Pkg 12c
Quaker Oats 12c
Nansmond Stringless No. 2 Can 12c

STERLING
Plain or Iodized SALT
Big 2-lb Box 6c

**CAMPBELL'S
Tomato SOUP**
10 1/2-oz Can 9c

**Just Received New Shipment of
CHENILLE
BEDSPREADS**

In Rose, Maize, Pink—and Blue, Green and Rose
With Floral Patterns

ALSO
**PURREY and ESMOND
Blankets**
All Shades

L. S. Thompson
Plymouth, N. C.