

TOWN TOPICS

The senior class of the local high school is sponsoring two performances of Uncle Rufus' hillbilly show here Friday afternoon and night.

Pfc. Lacy M. Warren, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Warren, of Roper, Route 1, is now in a hospital in England, where he is being treated for injuries received in an accident while serving with the American Army in France.

A copy of the so-called "G. I. Bill of Rights" is now on file at the office of the Washington County Selective Service Board here.

Several county principals and teachers attended a district meeting and banquet for home economics teachers in Robersonville Tuesday night.

Allison Grady Lamb, now serving with the Navy in the Caribbean area, has been advanced to the rating of seaman, first class.

In a recent letter, Cpl. Leland L. Riddick writes that he enjoys receiving the Beacon every week, although it is a bit late and he is a long way from home.

Members of the local rationing board's office force are looking forward to their lone annual official holiday on Monday, December 25.

Cpl. Stuart Bateman, who is stationed at Myrtle Beach, S. C., with an Army Signal Corps unit, is visiting his sister, Miss Ursula Bateman, county superintendent of public welfare.

George Harrison, electricians mate, first class, of the U. S. Naval Reserve, is spending about a week here with relatives.

Cpl. Tom Gardner is spending a few days at home. He is now stationed at Camp Claiborne, La., where his duties are connected with the maintenance and operation of a petroleum pipe line.

Son of R. T. Warren Wounded in Action

Robert T. Warren, of Washington, who has been employed at the ACL station here for the past two years, was advised Monday that his son, Pfc. Robert T. Warren, Jr., 25, had been slightly wounded in action November 27 in Germany.

Mr. Warren received a letter from his son yesterday, stating that he had been slightly wounded in the back but was getting along very well in a Paris hospital.

Young Warren was serving with an infantry regiment. He entered the service on February 7, 1942, and went overseas on December 4, last year.

Over Million Dollars' Worth of Bonds Bought in County Since January 1st

Washington County people have bought well over a million dollars' worth of War Bonds this year, it was learned yesterday from H. E. Beam, chairman of the County War Finance Committee.

Mr. Beam did not have a breakdown for all the issuing agencies in the county, but the Branch Banking & Trust Company here alone has issued 3,087 "E" bonds since the first of January, the maturity value of

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ESTABLISHED 1889

Beacon Schedule To Be Changed Next Two Weeks Account of Repair Work

Announcement is made this week that The Beacon schedule will undergo some changes during the next two weeks, due to repair work underway in the office.

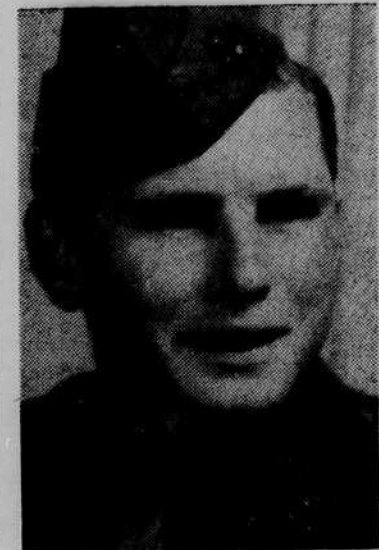
A new concrete floor for the office is to be poured after the paper is published next week. Due to the necessity of moving

all machinery and allowing time for the concrete to set, the intervals between papers is being increased. The office will not be open for business from December 21 through December 26, inclusive; and we trust our patrons will bear with us during this emergency.

Articles and correspondence for next week's paper must be in the office by Monday to insure publication. Subscribers, advertisers and correspondents are requested to please bear the changed schedule in mind.

Empty Stocking Fund To Care for County's Needy This Christmas

NOW OVERSEAS



Gerald C. Spencer, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Spencer, of Roper, is now serving overseas with the Marine Corps. He is a graduate of the Roper High School and went into the service last June.

Cpl. Stuart Bateman, who is stationed at Myrtle Beach, S. C., with an Army Signal Corps unit, is visiting his sister, Miss Ursula Bateman, county superintendent of public welfare.

George Harrison, electricians mate, first class, of the U. S. Naval Reserve, is spending about a week here with relatives.

Retail Business Up Here as Christmas Buying Nears Peak

Despite shortages, gasoline rationing and other restrictions brought about by the war, retail business in Plymouth is showing the effects of the approaching Christmas season.

Most of the stores have put up their green and red Christmas decorations, and displays of suggested gift items are varied and colorful.

Toys are not as elaborate as they once were, and there are very few items of metal and rubber to be found on the counters.

Over 100 Attend Masonic Banquet

More than 100 members and guests were present Tuesday night at the Legion Hall for the 133rd anniversary celebration and 25th annual Past Masters' Banquet of Perseverance Lodge, No. 59, A. F. & A. M.

John W. Darden, secretary of the lodge, revived the history of the lodge very briefly; and a memorial address was made by State Senator W. Roy Hampton in honor of the Masons who had passed away since the last Past Masters' Day.

Worthy Cases Will Receive Certificates Good for Necessities

Welfare Department Aids by Certifying Need to Committee Members

Some measure of Christmas cheer is assured for the needy of Washington County this year by an announcement made yesterday by the Rev. William B. Daniels, Jr., chairman of the Empty Stocking Fund Committee.

The plan adopted last year will be used again this year. Empty Stocking Fund coupons, valued at 50 cents each, will be issued so that needy families in the county may purchase their own Christmas supplies.

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

The coupons may be used by recipients. (See NEEDY CASES, Page 4)

Over 100 Attend Masonic Banquet

Past Masters Honored and Anniversary Celebrated Tuesday Night

More than 100 members and guests were present Tuesday night at the Legion Hall for the 133rd anniversary celebration and 25th annual Past Masters' Banquet of Perseverance Lodge, No. 59, A. F. & A. M.

Edward L. Owens, master of the lodge, served as toastmaster and reviewed some of the activities of the order here during the past year.

The proceedings at the Legion Hall followed a short meeting of the lodge at the hall. The banquet was served by members of the Young Matrons' Circle of the Christian church.

8 Shopping Days Until Christmas

For the convenience of shoppers who are not able to visit local places of business during daylight hours, Plymouth stores will remain open each night until 9 o'clock, beginning Wednesday of next week, December 20.

John W. Darden, secretary of the lodge, revived the history of the lodge very briefly; and a memorial address was made by State Senator W. Roy Hampton in honor of the Masons who had passed away since the last Past Masters' Day.

Board of Education Members To Confer With State Officials

Will Go To Raleigh Next Week for Meeting With State Superintendent

County school authorities will leave Tuesday for Raleigh, where they will confer Wednesday with Dr. Clyde Erwin, state superintendent of public instruction, and other state officials relative to a program for increasing and improving school facilities in Washington County.

School conditions in the county are at the lowest level they have been in many years, due to a number of causes. Due to deterioration, several school buildings are in serious need of major repairs; and a number of new structures are needed on account of increased enrollment and inadequacy of present facilities.

County officials have been giving the problem consideration for several months, and some time ago they requested the aid of state officials in working out a long-term plan to alleviate existing conditions.

At the time he entered the service he was working for the Post Office Department, carrying mail from Williamston to Columbia. He had been in this work for about a year, and prior to that he was employed for three years at the North Carolina Pulp Company here.

Farmers Urged To Make Applications For Soil Payments

25 Per Cent of Those Eligible Have Not Applied; Some Checks Here

Applications for soil conservation payments have been made by approximately 75 per cent of Washington County farmers who are eligible for them, it was stated this week by Miss Miriam Ausbond, AAA secretary at the agriculture building here.

Miss Ausbond said there were 850 farms, and possibly 1,000 or more farmers and tenants, eligible to participate in the soil building program.

So far, 530 applications for payments have been forwarded from the local office. Seventy-two checks have been received and are being distributed to farmers and tenants, the amounts ranging from a low of 90 cents to a high of \$380.85, it was stated.

The total amount represented in the 72 checks thus far issued is around \$5,000 to \$6,000.

Musical Recital at Roper Next Monday Afternoon

Roper.—The music class of Mrs. Roy Hopkins will give a duet recital of Christmas carols Monday afternoon at 2:30 in the school auditorium. The public is invited to attend.

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County Still Below "E" Bond Goal With Few Days To Go

Elbert Lee Woodley, Creswell, Reported Missing Last Week

Was Resident of Plymouth For Three Years Before Entering Army

Mrs. Sybil Spruill Woodley, of Creswell, received a telegram last Thursday from the War Department, informing her that her husband, Pvt. Elbert Lee Woodley, 23, has been missing in action in France since November 14th.

Private Woodley was accepted for service in the Army on December 3, 1943, and actually entered the service on December 26, last year. He trained in South Carolina and was later assigned to a camp at Indian-town Gap, Pa.

His last visit home was early in July this year, and he left for overseas shortly afterwards, on July 25. In a letter to his wife, received a few weeks ago, he wrote that he was driving a truck, hauling ammunition to the front.

At the time he entered the service he was working for the Post Office Department, carrying mail from Williamston to Columbia. He had been in this work for about a year, and prior to that he was employed for three years at the North Carolina Pulp Company here.

He was a member of the Christian church at Cherry and a graduate of the Creswell High School. About four years ago he was married to Miss Sybil Spruill, of Creswell, and they have two children, Elbert, Felix, 2 years of age, and Robert Drane, 4 months old.

Legion Auxiliary Will Meet Monday Night

A cook-book dinner party, honoring the past president of the American Legion Auxiliary, will be held Monday, December 18, at 7:30 p.m., in the Legion Hall.

School Holiday Is Nearly Two Weeks

Close After Classes Next Wednesday; Reopen on Tuesday, January 2

Washington County school children will get almost two weeks away from their studies during the Christmas season, it was learned this week from H. H. McLean, county superintendent of public instruction.

Due to the late start of schools last fall, opening of which was delayed by the infantile paralysis epidemic, it is expected that the term will not finally end until about the middle of June. The closing date cannot definitely be determined yet, as bad weather this winter may block operation of school buses and extend the term.

Another factor that will cause later closing next spring is the addition of a month to the school term, which became effective this year. Prior to the current term, schools of the state had eight-month sessions, but this year started on nine-month terms.

Pvt. Lloyd R. Waters at Army Hospital in Florida

Daytona Beach, Fla.—Pvt. Lloyd R. Waters, who formerly lived in Plymouth and Jamesville, has recently arrived at Welch Convalescent Hospital, the Army's new reconditioning center in Daytona Beach.

The son of Lloyd C. Waters, of Plymouth, N. C., Pvt. Waters was injured while undergoing basic training. His wife, Mrs. Beulah Ange Waters, lives in Jamesville.

SERVING IN ITALY



Pvt. Bob Thomas Furlough, son of T. E. Furlough, of Roper, is now in Italy with an engineers outfit. He has been overseas for three years, and was awarded the Purple Heart Medal after being wounded in the foot by shrapnel in North Africa on February 2, 1943.

Tax Supervisor and Township Assessors To Meet Next Week

To Work Out Schedule for Uniform Listing of Personal Property

Township tax listers and boards of assessors will meet at the courthouse with the tax supervisor next Wednesday night at 8 o'clock to receive instructions about their work, which is scheduled to get underway throughout the county on January 1st.

All real estate in the county is subject to review and reevaluation next year, pursuant to state law, which requires such action every four years. The last reevaluation was in 1941.

It is understood that the boards of assessors will serve as list-takers; except possibly in Plymouth Township, where it is usually necessary to have a list-taker for personal property in addition to the three assessors.

At the meeting next week, a uniform schedule of values is to be worked out for listing personal property, including cattle, hogs, sheep, mules and horses. The object is to make the valuations as nearly uniform as possible throughout the county.

Roper Parents-Teachers To Meet Next Tuesday

Roper.—The Roper Parent-Teachers Association will meet Tuesday evening of next week, December 19, at 8 o'clock, in the high school auditorium. A special Christmas entertainment has been planned by the program committee for this meeting.

A Christmas pageant will be presented by the grammar grades, and the club will sing a selection of Christmas carols.

Much Money Paid Out by Local Bank In Past Three Weeks for Gift Buying

The local bank has paid out a large amount of cash during the past two or three weeks, principally to be used for Christmas shopping, it was learned this week from H. E. Beam, the cashier. The exact amount was not divulged by the banker, but it is indicated that it will total more than \$100,000.

Although the Branch Banking & Trust Company here does not have the regular Christmas savings accounts, as in years past, a number of thrifty people set up special Christmas accounts every year, adding a little each

Sales To Yesterday \$62,595; 55 Per Cent Of The \$113,000 Quota

All Bonds Sold This Month Will Be Credited To Sixth War Loan

"E" Bond sales in Washington County in the Sixth War Loan Campaign are running just about the same as the national average, according to reports yesterday. However, that is not good enough; and unless there is a sudden spur in sales between now and Saturday night, Washington County is due to fall short of its quota.

As of yesterday, "E" bond sales since the start of the drive amounted to \$62,595; while the county quota is \$113,000. Thus the county has sold slightly more than 55 per cent of its quota, according to H. E. Beam, chairman of the War Finance Committee.

The sale of negotiable bonds and tax certificates will add to the overall total for the county, the quota for which is \$219,000, but it is the "E" bond quota which is causing concern. The total sales reported above do not include sales at the post-offices in Creswell, Roper and Plymouth since December 7th, but does include sales at the local bank up to yesterday.

Those who plan to buy bonds are requested not to wait for canvassers or solicitors to call on them, but to go ahead and buy them now, so that the county may get credit during the present drive. Also those who have sufficient stamps on hand are asked to turn them in on bonds, as these will count just the same as cash purchases.

County Chairman of the Sixth War Loan, W. R. Caylord, is making a final appeal to canvassers to see all those in their respective areas during the few days remaining if possible, so that no one may be missed in the drive. Every emphasis should be put on the sale of "E" bonds, as it is believed the quota of other than "E" bonds will be reached before the end of the week.

No report has been received of the amount of "E" bonds bought by men in the service and credited to this county. In the last campaign such sales amounted to about \$8,000. Last-minute bond purchases for Christmas gifts are expected to swell the total somewhat, but the margin is entirely too close for comfort at this time; and it will require every sale possible for the county to reach its goal by the end of the drive.

County Board To Meet Next Week

The county board of commissioners will hold an adjourned meeting in the courthouse here next Wednesday night. Unable to finish all the work that came before them last Monday, the board recessed until December 20, when it will resume where it left off last week.

Among the items scheduled for consideration next Wednesday are election of a county auditor, auditor, tax collector, farm superintendent and courthouse janitor. Other matters will probably receive attention also.

Services Sunday at St. Luke's Church in Roper

The Rev. William B. Daniels, Jr., will conduct service and deliver the sermon at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Roper, Sunday morning, December 17. The service will begin at 11:15 a.m.