

J. B. Davenport, of the U. S. Maritime Service, spent four days here recently with his father, J. L. Davenport. He will visit other relatives before returning to New York to "ship out" again with the merchant marine.

Wilbur M. Darden resumed his duties as clerk of the Washington County Superior Court last week. W. B. Cox, who has been attending to the duties of the office as assistant clerk for the past several years, has accepted a position with the North Carolina Pulp Company.

County Auditor E. J. Spruill returned to Rocky Mount hospital last Wednesday for treatment after being home for a few weeks. He had not fully recovered from an attack of pneumonia suffered more than a month ago and decided to return for further treatment. He is said to be getting along very well, although still weak.

The Branch Banking and Trust Company was closed today in observance of Halifax Day, the date marking the anniversary of the resolutions adopted by the Provisional Congress of North Carolina at Halifax on April 12, 1776, instructing the delegates from North Carolina to the Provincial Congress to vote for a Declaration of Independence.

Quite a number of county farmers will begin transplanting tobacco plants to the field next week. The season is one of the earliest in the history of the crop in the county. Some blue mold has been reported, but no serious damage to plant beds has been reported thus far.

County School Superintendent H. H. McLean last week broadcast an appeal by the Junior Red Cross for 5,000 wire coat hangers from Washington County, to be sent to Army and Navy hospitals for use by wounded service men. He requested school principals to make the collection and report by Friday, April 13. Up to today, the colored school in Plymouth, under the supervision of Principal A. R. Lord, had collected 1,647 hangers, which it is believed will constitute a record for the county.

The Albemarle District Committee, Boy Scouts of America, will hold its regular meeting Friday night at the city clerk's office at 8 o'clock. A program of camporees and camping for the summer for Scouts of Washington and Tyrrell Counties is to be considered and discussed.

It was reported here yesterday that Louis Gurganus, farmer who lives on the Mackeys road, suffered a painful cut on his left foot Monday morning, when he was cutting bean poles. The axe slipped and he cut a gash on his left foot that required four stitches by Dr. McGowan to close.

Mrs. W. C. Moore this week stated that she had been requested to publish the correct address of the family of Oscar Leon Driver, Jr., of the U. S. Marine Corps, who was killed in action on Iwo Jima recently. His wife, Mrs. O. L. Driver, Jr., and parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Driver, Sr., all live at Whistler, Ala., Route 1, Box 320.

W. H. Thompson To Head Farm Bureau

Officers Elected and Installed Last Week

Ernest Davenport, of Creswell, Vice President; Plan Program

About 30 members of the Washington County Farm Bureau attended the meeting held here last Friday night, when officers were elected and installed for the current year. The new officers are as follows: W. H. Thompson, of Roper, president; Ernest Davenport, of Creswell and Cherry, vice president; and Mrs. Norma B. Spruill, secretary and treasurer.

After the new officers were installed, plans were discussed for a number of activities by the organization during the coming few months. The first thing planned was a barbecue, which will be held later in the spring, to which all members and prospective members will be invited.

It was also decided to hold regular meetings of the bureau at the agriculture building in Plymouth on the first Friday of each month, starting at 8 p.m. Interesting and instructive progress will be presented dealing with timely topics of interest to county farmers. The county unit now has 255 members, and it is planned to increase this number and make the organization active in promoting the welfare of all those interested in agriculture.

At the May meeting, it is hoped to have Howard R. Garris, of Raleigh, plant disease specialist at State College, for the main speaker. Mr. Garris is an expert on peanuts, as well as all plant diseases, and will have a timely message for those producing this crop.

No Interest, No Candidates for Town Election To Be Held Tuesday, May 8

So far, absolutely no interest has been displayed in the town election, which will be held on May 8 this year. Although the election is less than a month off, there are no candidates or prospective candidates for the seven places to be filled, and it now looks as if an entire slate of city officials will have to be drafted to run local affairs for the two years beginning on the first Monday in June.

Several present members of the city council have indicated that they would not be candidates for reelection; and Mayor B. G.

Campbell said last week that he did not desire to run again. The mayor is rounding out 18 years of service, nine as a member of the council and nine more as the town's chief executive.

Several names have been proposed for the various offices, but those suggested have, without exception, declared that they not only were not interested but would decline to serve. Time is growing short, and some sort of action will have to be taken in the immediate future, or the town will be without any elected officials.

Clothing Collection in County for Needy of War-Torn Countries

INSTRUCTOR



1st Lt. J. S. (Dick) Norman, son of J. S. Norman, of Plymouth, reported Tuesday to Turner Field at Albany, Ga., where he will serve as an instructor on B-25 "Mitchell" medium bombers. Lieutenant Norman returned last fall from England, where he completed 35 bombing missions as a pilot of a B-17 Flying Fortress with the Eighth Air Force. He holds the Distinguished Flying Cross with two battle stars, and the Air Medal with three oak-leaf clusters.

Local Legion Auxiliary Will Meet Next Monday

The American Legion Auxiliary will meet Monday night, April 16, at 8 o'clock in the Legion Hall. Mesdames Rogers, Simpson, and Bowen are hostesses. All members are requested to attend.

Two New Members County Board Took Oath Office Monday

Number Routine Business Matters Disposed of at Regular Meeting

The Board of Washington County Commissioners took its enlarged membership in stride at its regular meeting last Monday, and after a brief "swearing-in" ceremony got right down to business on routine matters at the same old stand. Pursuant to an act passed by the recent legislature enlarging membership of the board from three to five, A. R. Latham, of Plymouth, and the Rev. T. F. Davenport, of Lake Phelps, took their oaths of office as members of the board before Clerk of Court W. M. Darden. They will serve until the next general election, when their successors will be elected.

All members of the board were present Monday. Besides the two new members, they are H. H. Allen, chairman, of Plymouth; J. C. Kitchell, of Roper; and Harry W. Pritchett, of Creswell. Proceedings were as follows:

Albert Hufton was allowed \$2 each for pigs killed by dogs running at large.

Mrs. J. C. Knowles was appointed registrar of vital statistics for Lees Mill Township, succeeding Mrs. Russell Chesson, who has moved away.

Mrs. Frances M. Darden, home demonstration agent, read her report for March, which was accepted and approved.

The schedule "B" license tax for (See COUNTY BOARD, Page 4)

Move Is Sponsored By Local Groups

Civic Clubs, Unions, Schools, Scouts Make Plans for Successful Drive

Plans were worked out last week-end for county participation in the United National Clothing Collection, in progress throughout the nation throughout the month of April. In this county, the collection is being sponsored by the Plymouth Lions Club, the local AFL-affiliated unions, American Legion Auxiliary, Boy Scouts, schools, and several other women's organizations. Jack Horner, the local Lions Club representative, was elected chairman of the county drive at a meeting last week-end.

It is announced that donations of used clothing will be received at the Union Hall, on the second floor of the old hotel building, at the various county schools, and a collection will be made by Boy Scouts. Complete plans for a canvass have not been announced as yet.

The purpose of the collection is to secure good used clothing for free distribution to needy and destitute men, women and children in war devastated countries. Henry J. Kaiser is national chairman of the collection.

Samples of the type of clothing needed are being displayed in the (See CLOTHING, Page 4)

No Mosquito Control Program This Year

Town Short of Funds; May Seek Subscriptions for Partial Relief

Charles Leonard, sanitary officer for the district health department, made a very interesting talk about control of mosquitoes at the weekly meeting of the Lions Club last Thursday night. Mr. Leonard, who is well qualified on the subject, discussed the habits of various types of mosquitoes, and methods of control which have been found effective in communities where conditions are similar to those prevailing here.

At the conclusion of his talk, it was learned that no arrangements have been made for any mosquito-control measures here this year. The town, which has been taking the lead in this work for the past several years, has no funds available at this time for hiring the necessary help or buying the oil necessary for spraying.

Members of the club showed considerable interest in the matter, and it was proposed that a fund be raised by public subscription to carry on some phases of the work, which it is believed will at least make conditions more endurable here during the spring and early summer months. The matter is slated for further consideration when more club members are present.

To Begin Nation-Wide Brake Testing Sunday

Beginning Sunday, April 15, and continuing through May 31, a nationwide brake testing program gets underway. M. B. Stewart, local member of the state Highway Patrol, has been ordered to start checking the brakes on all cars and trucks, and owners whose cars are found below standard will be given citation to have adjustments or repairs made.

Local sheriffs and police officers throughout the state have been requested to cooperate in the program. Each officer is furnished a block, which placed under the brake pedal shows whether or not adjustment or repairs is needed. Car owners are warned to have their brakes in good order by Sunday, as they are subject to be stopped and checked at any time.

GETS PROMOTION



Ensign Barbara Norman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Z. V. Norman, of Plymouth has been promoted to lieutenant (j.g.) in the U. S. Navy. She entered Smith College, Northampton, Mass., for training on October 21, 1943, and received her commission as ensign December 14, 1943. She was assigned to the Naval Air Station at Vero Beach, Fla., where she has remained as a communications officer.

Mrs. J. H. Browning Died Suddenly Near Here Last Saturday

Victim of Heart Attack; Funeral Service Held Sunday Afternoon

Mrs. Dean Browning, 62, wife of J. H. Browning, prominent farmer of the Long Ridge section near Plymouth, died suddenly from a heart attack at her home about 1:15 last Saturday afternoon. Mrs. Browning had been to Plymouth Saturday morning; she spoke of not feeling well while on the way back, and died shortly after reaching her home.

Daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Battle Gurganus Mrs. Browning was born in Washington County on January 27, 1883, and lived in the same general community all of her life. She was an ardent church worker and one of the most active members of the Christian Hope church in her section. She taught a Sunday school class and had a leading part in the promotion of all phases of church work.

Besides her husband, Mrs. Browning is survived by three sons, H. L. and I. R. Browning, of Plymouth Route 1; Joe Gray Browning, of the U. S. Navy, stationed at San Bernardino, Calif.; three daughters, Mrs. A. J. Ange, of Plymouth Route 1; Mrs. Rosalie Sawyer, of Roanoke Rapids; and Mrs. Samuel Bateman, of Norfolk, Va. She also leaves three sisters, Mrs. R. G. Hardison, of Plymouth; Mrs. W. A. Mizelle, of Baltimore, Md.; and three brothers, Onie Gurganus, of Durham; Joe Gray Gurganus, of Laurinburg; and Paul Gurganus, of Glendale, Md.

Funeral services were held from the late home Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock, conducted by the Rev. J. R. Lee, her pastor, assisted by the Rev. E. B. Quick, pastor of the First Christian church of Plymouth. Interment was made in the Jackson cemetery near the home.

Regular Meeting of Board of Education

Members Begin New Terms And Reappoint Local School Committees

Members of the Washington County Board of Education had a busy day Monday. All three members of the old board entered upon new terms, they requested the county commissioners to call the special bond election at the earliest date possible, and local school committees were appointed for all three districts in the county. No action was taken on the election of the county school superintendent for the two-year term beginning July 1, 1945.

Members of the board were reappointed by the recent legislature, and the first business at the meeting Monday was to be sworn in and begin their new terms of office. The oath was administered by Clerk of Superior Court W. M. Darden.

Only one change was made in the local committees, Glenn Furbee, of Wenona, being named to succeed James L. Rea, Jr., on the Plymouth committee. The complete committee appointments for the coming two years are as follows:

Plymouth: A. Lloyd Owens, R. J. Frymier, of Plymouth; and Glenn Furbee, of Wenona;

Roper: W. B. Davenport, of Mackeys; A. R. Phelps and P. C. Tarkington, of Roper;

Creswell: H. R. Sullman, Harry P. Barnes, of Creswell; Hubert L. Davenport, Roper Route 1.

Education Board Asks Bond Election as Soon as Possible

National Agency Authorizes Program For Converting 20 Dwelling Units Here

Jack H. Brown, of Greensboro, state director of the National Housing Administration, announced Tuesday that due to a critical lack of housing in the Plymouth area, and as a result of a survey recently made, the National Housing Agency has approved a conversion program consisting of 20 units for the Plymouth area.

According to Mr. Brown, the program contemplates the conversion of existing structures, whether they be presently used for residential purposes or not, into one or more living units. In other words, if a person owns a

large house, he can obtain priorities, under this program to convert the unit and in so doing create additional living units which will help relieve the critical housing situation in Plymouth.

Without the program authorized this week, construction restrictions would prohibit the conversion work. The program, as now set up, will permit the creation of but 20 additional units through the medium of conversion. Application blanks for priorities may be secured from Jack H. Brown, state director, National Housing Agency, Greensboro, N. C.

Expect Call To Be Made at May Meet Of County Board

Not Believed Election Can Be Held Before Middle Or Last of June

The county board of education last Monday put in motion the machinery to call for a special election to pass on issuance of up to \$250,000 worth of bonds for erection and major repairs of school buildings in various parts of the county. It was the hope of the board of education members that the special election could be held by the first of June, but this appears doubtful in the light of later developments.

The recent legislature passed an act authorizing Washington County commissioners to call such an election at the request of the board of education. The education board made such request, by resolution directed to the county commissioners, at its regular April meeting last Monday. In turn, the commissioners directed the county attorney, W. L. Whitley, to prepare the proper notices for calling the special election and have them ready to be acted upon at the next regular meeting of the county board, on the first Monday in May.

Since the calling of a special election and issuance of bonds is a very meticulous proceeding it is expected to require some time for the correct procedure to be determined and acted upon. It will be necessary to call for a special registration for the bond election, and this must be properly advertised, all of which will require time. The next meeting of the county commissioners is set for May 7, and it is considered doubtful that the election can be held before the middle or later part of June, at best.

Pvt. E. L. Woodley Killed in France on Last November 14

Previously Reported "Missing in Action"; Served With Third Army

Mrs. Sybil Woodley, of Creswell, last week-end received a telegram from the War Department stating that her husband, Pvt. Elbert Lee Woodley, who was previously reported missing in action on November 14, 1944, was killed in action on that date in France. He was serving with General George Patton's Third Army, and presumably was somewhere in the Metz area on that date. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde H. Woodley, live in Creswell.

Private Woodley was 24 years old. He entered the Army on December 3, 1943. After receiving his basic training at Ft. Jackson, S. C., he was assigned to a unit at Indiantown Gap, Pa. Later he went to West Virginia, where he received special training in mountain warfare, receiving a special certificate and being returned to Indiantown Gap as an instructor in mountain climbing.

(See E. L. WOODLEY, Page 4)

A. N. Wentz Final Rites Near Roper

Died Thursday Morning of Last Week After Long Illness

A. N. Wentz, 69 prominent resident of the Mill Pond road section near Roper, died Thursday morning of last week at 11 o'clock after a long period of declining health. He had been ill for the past three years, but was confined to his bed only about four weeks before the end came.

Son of the late A. C. Wentz and Jane Ballard Wentz, originally of Onslow County, he was born in Washington County on October 1, 1875, and spent all of his life in the Roper section. On April 25, 1896, he was married to Miss Lee Ainsley, also of Roper, who survives him. Mr. Wentz was a member of the Episcopal church of Roper for many years.

Besides his widow, Mrs. Lee Ainsley Wentz, of Roper, he is survived by one son, Bernard Wentz, of Raleigh; and one brother, B. F. Wentz, of Norfolk, Va.

Funeral services were held from the late home last Saturday afternoon at 3:30 p.m., conducted by the Rev. William B. Daniels, Episcopal rector of Plymouth, and the Rev. Sidney Matthews, of Washington, assisted by the Rev. G. C. Wood, Methodist minister, of Roper. Interment was made in the family cemetery on the farm.

12 in Pre-Induction Call for April 13th

Twelve Washington County colored men were this week sent notices to report to the office of the local Selective Service Board here next Wednesday morning, when they will be sent to Fort Bragg to receive their pre-induction physical examinations. Most of the number are young men who only recently reached the age of 18. Eight of them are from Plymouth, two are from Roper and one each list Mackeys and Creswell as their home addresses.

Following is the list of those summoned: Roy Earl Johnson, Rupert Johnson, James Thomas Hooker, Robert Lee Ecker, Richard Joseph McNair, William Alexander Gee, Junior Mark Smith and Joe B. Downing, Jr., of Plymouth; Eugene Bell and Earl Norman, of Roper; Albert Hassell, of Mackeys; and Warren Chester Bouton, of Creswell.

KILLED IN ACTION



The War Department last week-end informed Mrs. Sybil Woodley, of Creswell, that her husband, Pvt. Elbert Lee Woodley, previously reported missing was killed in action in France on November 14, last year, while serving with General Patton's Third Army.

Edgar H. Bain To Meet Beer Dealers Next Week

Edgar H. Bain, of Goldsboro, state chairman of the brewers' committee, will meet with retail beer dealers of the county at the courthouse in Plymouth Friday afternoon of next week, April 20, at 2 p.m. He will explain changes in the law regulating the sale of beer and requests all beer dealers in the county to meet him at that time.

Rented Units Must Be Registered by April 15

City Council Makes Arrangements for Election on May 8

Registrars and Pollholders Appointed Last Week; Registration Period

The Plymouth City Council made arrangements at a meeting last Thursday night for holding the biennial municipal election here on May 8. A mayor and six councilmen are to be elected at that time to govern town affairs for the next two years. Registration books for the town election will open on Saturday, April 21, and remain open for one week, closing the following Saturday, April 28, Saturday before the election, May 5, will be challenge day.

The city council also appointed registrars and pollholders for the election and designated the places of registration and polling.

Mrs. H. M. Ramsey will be registrar for the first ward and will have the registration books at her insurance office on Water Street here during the registration period from April 21 to 28, inclusive. Whit Stubbs and A. R. Dupree were named pollholders for the election, and the polling places for this ward will be at the courthouse.

L. C. Hassell is registrar for the second ward and will have the books at the Hassell Brothers Bakery, which will also be the polling place. William R. Darden and J. T. McNair are pollholders.

Mrs. C. A. Cratch was named registrar for the third ward, with P. H. Darden's store on Jefferson Street designated as the registration and polling place. Whit Harrison and W. (See CITY COUNCIL, Page 4)

Raymond E. Phelps Injured at Iwo Jima

Is Fifth Man From Washington County Wounded In Recent Battle

Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler Phelps, of Mackeys, received a letter Monday stating that their son, Pvt. Raymond Earl Phelps, 20, of the U. S. Marine Corps, was wounded in the stomach during the Iwo Jima battle last month. The letter, dictated by young Phelps and written by a comrade at a Naval hospital somewhere in the (See IWO JIMA, Page 4)

20 Per Cent Listed Up To Yesterday

All County Included; Few Outside of Plymouth Have Registered

Raleigh, April 10.—(Special to The Beacon).—With approximately 20 per cent of the housing units in Plymouth and Washington County registered as of today, George W. Jeffrey, Plymouth Rent Control Area director, said that Sunday, April 15, is the deadline for rent registration. Persons making registrations after that date and those who fail to register are subject to penalty.

A tabulation at the rent control office this morning revealed 240 housing accommodations already registered, plus two rooming houses and hotels. This is approximately 20 per cent of the estimated more than 1,000 dwelling units in Washington County, Mr. Jeffrey said.

Slowest to register have been persons renting dwelling quarters in Washington County outside the town of Plymouth. The director reminded that all rented units in Washington County must be registered. The whole of Washington County has been declared a defense rental area and rent control is in effect throughout the county, he said.

The penalty for failure to register all rented or offered-for-rent dwelling units is \$5,000 fine or one year in Federal prison. Blanks for registration of rented property, including houses, apartment, rooms and all other living quarters may be secured from Mrs. Jane H. Hanes, rent control clerk, at the office of the Washington County War Price and Rationing Board in the courthouse. Those who sub-rent or sub-lease living quarters are also required to register such property, it is emphasized,