

The Lions club will not meet tonight in the regular meeting, according to an announcement by the president, Dr. A. Papineau, due to the fact that the club was unable to secure anyone to prepare the dinner.

An assistant bus mechanic has been employed for the county, W. F. Veasey stated that the board has been unable to secure a man from a distance because of living conditions in Plymouth. Therefore, they are fortunate to obtain the services of Herbert Waters, of the Long Ridge Road, who begins his duties Thursday of this week.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, The Beacon does not have sufficient space this week to publish several articles prepared for publication, and others were cut short. It is hoped that the articles left out can be used next week.

Lt. W. J. Highsmith, jr., recently was placed on the inactive list by the U. S. Navy and is now at his home here with Mrs. Highsmith. Sanitary inspector for the district health department before he went into the service in 1942, Mr. Highsmith has been in the Philippines and China in recent months.

County Forest Warden S. F. Darden is looking for a towerman for the Plymouth Fire Tower. Anyone who is interested in this work is asked to see Mr. Darden.

Highway patrolmen are checking lights on cars and trucks in this section. Numerous citations are being issued for violations, and all car owners are warned to have their lights put in good shape to avoid arrest. Patrolmen also are watching for drivers who refuse to dim their lights when approaching other cars on the highways at night.

Tobacco allotments for 1946 will be increased by 10 per cent over those for 1945, it was announced yesterday by officials of the Agriculture Department. The increase will be made by addition of a straight 10 per cent to each individual grower's allotment. Washington County had approximately 1,200 acres of tobacco last season, which means an additional 120 acres this year.

E. E. Harrell, owner of the Plymouth Furniture Company, has received his discharge from the Navy and is now at his home here with Mrs. Harrell and their two children. He was in the service for nearly three years, much of the time on the West Coast.

Approximately 85 Lions and their ladies were present at the quarterly ladies' night banquet of the Lions Club last Thursday night. An entertaining program was presented, with hilarity the keynote of the evening, and everyone had an enjoyable time.

## New Restaurant Is Opened Here

Between 500 and 600 people visited M. L. Nobles' new restaurant on Washington Street at the formal opening Monday night. Mr. Nobles said 302 were registered, and estimated that an equal number called but failed to register. Sandwiches and punch were served by the management.

The restaurant was attractively decorated and lighted for the opening, and hostesses conducted all who called on an inspection trip to see the equipment and appointments. The new place is a credit to the town, and it is enjoying excellent patronage since opening for business Tuesday morning.

The name "Mayflower Restaurant" was selected for the new place by the contest judges last night. Details will be published next week.

## Four County Men in Draft Call Next Week

Four white men from Washington county have been issued a pre-induction call for next Wednesday, January 16. They will report to Fort Bragg for physical examination on that date.

The young men are: Delbert Leroy Clinton and Dallis Milton Biggs, of Roper; Onwood Ross Griffin, of Mackeys; and Orval Naylor, of Plymouth.

## County Finally Topped E-Bond Quota In Victory Loan, With \$1,285 To Spare

Although H. E. Beam, chairman of the county war finance committee, said he has no idea "how we did it," Washington County went "over the top" on both its E bond and overall quotas in the Victory Loan drive, which ended January 1. The Federal Reserve Bank credits the county with \$99,285 E-bond sales, against a quota of \$98,000; and \$342,085 overall sales, against a quota of \$340,000.



## Work Resumed at Pulp Mill As Wood Deliveries Pick Up

Shut down since January 1st on account of pulpwood shortage, the plant of the North Carolina Pulp Company here resumed operations today. Mill officials stated that enough wood was on hand and in sight to assure operation for about 10 days, and that if the weather improved so that wood could be gotten out of the forests the plant would continue production on its regular schedule.

Officials said that there was plenty of pulpwood already cut to assure continued operations, but difficulty is being experienced in getting trucks in and out of the woods, due to high water in most of the wood-producing areas of this section.

The unusually heavy rainfall in the past six or eight months and the December spell of cold weather combined to make pulpwood cutting and delivery very difficult, it is explained.

Considerable repair and maintenance work was done at the plant here during the past week or so, while the mill was shut down.

## Sale of Town Property Confirmed by Council

### Contracts Ready For Cucumbers

Cucumber contracts are now ready for distribution among farmers of this section, it is announced this week by C. W. Dinkins, manager of the local plant of C. C. Lang & Son, Inc., of Baltimore.

Those interested in growing the crop this year may secure a contract at the office of the plant here or at Blount's Hardware store.

Mr. Dinkins said contract terms will be the same as last year, when growers are reported to have made a profit. The company had about 400 acres signed up in the county last year and is prepared to handle even a larger acreage this season.

## New District Health Members Meet Here

W. F. Veasey, H. H. Allen and Dr. W. H. Johnson County Members

The three members of the Washington-Tyrrell county health district, recently appointed by Dr. Carl B. Reynolds, state health officer, met last week in the office of W. F. Veasey, superintendent of education and one of the members.

Others serving in this capacity are H. H. Allen, chairman of Washington county commissioners and W. M. Laughinghouse, mayor of Columbia.

## Final Rites Friday For Leonard Lucas

An elderly citizen of Plymouth, Leonard Lucas, died at his home on East Main street Wednesday night, following a long illness.

Funeral services will be conducted from the First Christian church of Plymouth at 3 o'clock Friday afternoon. Mr. Lucas' pastor, the Rev. E. B. Quick will officiate, assisted by his former pastor, the Rev. John J. Langston, of Four Oaks, and the Rev. Paul B. Nickens, pastor of the Baptist church of Plymouth.

## \$7,300 Bid for Water Street Lot Accepted

### Committee Named to Study Possible Sale of Other Surplus Property

In addition to confirming bids for town property sold and rented at public auction on December 28, the city council Monday night appointed a committee to examine the possibility of concentrating all agencies and departments in one building and selling other town-owned surplus property.

This action was taken at the regular meeting of the council, attended by Mayor E. F. Still and all six councilmen: H. E. Harrison, A. J. Riddle, J. S. Brinkley, E. D. Keel, A. J. Byrd and J. W. Marrow.

The council passed a motion accepting the \$7,300 bid of A. L. Alexander for the vacant lot between Z. V. Norman's office and the fire department on Water street. The lot has 50 feet front and runs back to the river. The bid of \$45 per month made by Roy Simpson for the old police department headquarters in the city market building also was accepted.

The mayor and city clerk were authorized to execute a deed Success of the recent sale led councilmen into a discussion of placing all city departments in one building. It was proposed that the market building be completely renovated and rebuilt so that it would provide quarters for the city clerk, police and fire departments.

This would release considerable property on Water Street needed for business use, and at the same time increase tax revenue to the town, it is pointed out.

Shep Brinkley, J. W. Marrow and H. E. Harrison were appointed to a committee to consult and architect and get preliminary plans and estimates of the cost of rebuilding the market building.

## Grand Jury Recommends County Employ Jailor, Additional Deputy

### Lack of Cleanliness in Numerous County Buildings Is Criticized

Employment of an additional deputy sheriff and a full-time jailor was recommended by the Washington County Grand Jury in its report submitted to Judge W. C. Harris in superior court here yesterday afternoon. It was suggested that the additional deputy serve the upper part of the county and that, if possible, a married couple be secured to serve as full-time jailors.

## Routine Business At Regular Meet Of County Board

### Highway Commission Given Lease of Land for Storing Materials

At the regular session of the board of county commissioners which met Monday at 10:30 in the court house, J. J. Gilbert and D. J. Bridgman of the state highway commission appeared before the board and asked for a lease on a strip of land beyond the county home. The land is situated on the old Roper dirt road. The commission desires the use of this strip, it was stated for the purpose of erecting a truck shed and space for storage of materials to be used in highway work.

The board voted to lease the strip of land for \$5 a year, with a provision that the county may cancel the lease by giving 30 days notice.

Chief Police P. W. Brown appeared before the commissioners in reference to disposal of property within the limits of Plymouth. They are lots belonging to Carolyn Wynn, Martin and Getzinger. Chief Brown said the lots had been foreclosed and the commissioners decided to see Z. V. Norman and obtain a deed in order to sell the property, if it has been foreclosed.

E. J. Spruill, tax collector, reported that he collected \$17,710.29 in taxes during the month of December, 1945.

The board recommended that the auditor be authorized to pay J. S. Twiddy a total of \$42 for four hogs, weighing 105 pounds at 10 cents per pound for hogs belonging to him that were destroyed by dogs. This was decided upon hearing a report from the committee of Davenport, John W. Spruill and Homer Alligood, who were appointed to investigate the case.

Mrs. E. J. Spruill, welfare superintendent for the county, was asked to investigate the cases of D. E. Baxter, of Long Ridge Road, and Mrs. Dora Biggs, of Roper, for old-age assistance.

## Meet Tomorrow to Form Flying Club

Organization of a flying club will be considered at a meeting to be held at the fire department Friday night of this week at 8 o'clock. George F. Hatch, of Tarboro, veteran pilot of both world wars and private flying enthusiast, will be here to explain how the club may be organized and the facilities that will be available.

Everyone interested in aviation is invited and urged to attend the meeting.

## Report Made Yesterday Is Commended Highly by Presiding Judge

house show signs of neglect and improper cleaning and attention.

Furnace room: We found the furnace room badly in need of thorough cleaning. This room, we recommend, needs a replacement of materials which might be used in starting fires in the furnace. This material we found, to be too near the furnace and thus we consider a fire hazard.

We recommend that the halls and passageways of the courthouse be kept free and clean of all rubbish at all times, and that such halls must not be used for storage purposes of any kind.

We recommend that fire extinguishers be installed throughout the courthouse building, also in the agriculture building.

We recommend that records below the vault in the register of deeds and the clerk of court offices be restored in a proper and fireproof manner.

We recommend that windows and doors, both interior and exterior, be repaired, screened in all places needed, and that this be done immediately. Plastering is needed in some spots and should be taken care of now.

We found some exposed heating pipes throughout the courthouse and we recommend that these pipes be removed as soon as possible.

The clerk of court's office is in need of a new table, which should be provided as soon as possible.

We recommend that modern drinking fountains be installed throughout the courthouse, and that present coolers now being used be condemned, as same were found to be most insanitary.

We found the jail to be in a fairly satisfactory condition. However, we recommend that particular attention and repairs be given immediately to Wash basins throughout entire court-

## Selecting Jury for Trial of Two Men on Murder Charge

### Better Enforcement of Law in County Is Needed, Says Judge

#### Criticism Voiced in Charge To Grand Jury and in Talk to Rotary

The need for law enforcement in Washington County was emphasized in two addresses made here this week by Judge W. C. Harris, of Raleigh, who is presiding over the January term of superior court. His charge to the grand jury at the opening of court Monday was centered largely on this theme, and he also used it as the subject of a brief talk before the Rotary Club Tuesday night.

He stated that a growing town, such as Plymouth, is in need of a much better system of law enforcement, more officers and more efficient handling of law violators. He said that "unless the citizens of the town and county wake up to the need and take hold of the situation, somebody will come in and steal all the marbles."

The jurist asserted that the county has gotten along with the same number of officers for several years, although hundreds of people have moved into the section in the interim. He said, for instance, that the sheriff and one deputy could not adequately enforce the law in the county and recommended that another deputy be employed for the upper part of the county.

He spoke also of the urgent need for a jailor. It is not conducive to good order, sanitation, or even humane, to place people in a jail without proper supervision, he stated.

At the Rotary meeting Tuesday, Solicitor George Fountain, of Tarboro, also spoke, dealing principally with the value of Rotary Clubs, mentioning the value of the Tarboro Club.

## Pulp Mill Officials Lose Furniture in Truck Fire

L. J. Darby and Elmer Leavitt, officials of the North Carolina Pulp Company, sustained a heavy loss last week-end, when a moving van with their furniture was wrecked and destroyed between Newark, N. J., and Plymouth.

They were informed Monday by telegram that their belongings were a total loss, but no details of the accident were furnished.

Mr. and Mrs. Leavitt lost all of their furniture and furnishings, including silverware and Chinaware. Mr. and Mrs. Darby were not moving all of their household goods, although they had some expensive articles of furniture in the van.

Insurance will cover part of the loss, it is understood, but many of the articles are irreplaceable at this time.

## Property Being Listed in County

Tax listing is underway throughout the county, with only a small fraction of property reported by owners so far. The listing period continues through January 31, and the work is expected to speed up in the next week. As usual, there will be a last-minute rush during the last few days of the month, when the list-takers will be swamped.

Mrs. Hermine Ramsey, list taker for Plymouth Township, said yesterday that listing here was proceeding very good in comparison with the first week in former years. Farmers, especially, are coming in earlier than usual, she said. There were no reports from other townships.

## Few Cases Tried By Court So Far

### Negroes Who Robbed Creswell ABC Store Get Year in Prison

Few cases have been disposed of in superior court so far this week. One case has been continued, two defendants acquitted, two others found guilty and given prison sentences, and two others are now on trial for their lives, charged with murder. Proceedings have been as follows:

The case against Beatrice Downing, charged with larceny, was continued for the term on motion of the State.

W. C. Brown, charged with non-support, was found not guilty.

After a trial lasting the better part of two days, the jury brought in a verdict of not guilty as to C. P. Allgood, of Franklin County, who was charged with assault with a deadly weapon upon Linwood Gaylord, of Plymouth.

John Banks and Earl Aiken, colored, charged with breaking and entering the ABC store in Creswell in July, 1944, were found guilty and given sentences of 12 months each. They were brought here from the state penitentiary, where they are serving sentences for similar offenses in other counties.

Henry Norman, colored, and Raymond Clifton, white, are now on trial for the fatal shooting of Ernest Cooper, Scuppernon merchant, last September 8th.

## 5-Year-Old Child Is Fatally Burned

Little Fay Sawyer, age five, of Plymouth, died Thursday, January 3, at 1:15 a.m., as a result of burns received Christmas week.

The child was at the county home at the time of the accident. Her mother, Mrs. Annie Mobley Sawyer, who was employed there, found the child playing with two lighted candles. She took them away from Fay, but the little girl found them again and proceeded to light them the second time, catching her clothes on fire, getting in and out of the bedcovers, fanning the flames. The mother put out the blaze, but the child lived only a little over a week.

She was born in Washington county April 27, 1940.

Funeral services were held at the grave, the Rev. W. B. Harrington, of Williamston, officiating. Interment took place in the Mobley cemetery near Jamesville.

The little girl is survived by her mother; two brothers, Franklin Sawyer, of Norfolk, Va., and Coburn Sawyer, of Williamston; one sister, Peggy Sawyer of the home, and her grandmother, Mrs. Nellie Mobley, of Jamesville.

## Special Venire of 160 Men Called

11 of 13 Jurors Needed Had Been Selected Up To Noon Today

At noon today, only 11 of the 13 jurors needed for the Clifton-Norman murder trial had been selected in superior court. Thirty-five men have been summoned for this afternoon, and it is expected the two additional jurors will be secured from this venire. Jurors chosen so far are: Webb Patrick, Russell R. Knowles, E. J. Barber, R. H. Garganus, Clarence E. Bowen, H. J. Woolard, Marshall E. Woodley, Harrell Reid Phelps, J. A. Hutton, Rufus A. Tetterton and T. C. Patrick.

Considerable difficulty is being experienced in securing a jury for the trial of Raymond Clifton, white, and Henry Norman, colored, for the murder of Ernest Cooper, 50-year-old Scuppernon Township merchant last September 8th. A special venire of 100 men was ordered to report Wednesday morning, but this panel was exhausted by Wednesday night, with only 10 men in the box.

Another special venire of 25 was summoned for Thursday morning and exhausted with but one additional juror secured shortly before noon. Judge W. C. Harris, presiding, then ordered that another 35 men be summoned, and selection of the jury continued this afternoon. Prospective jurymen are being questioned closely by defense counsel, and quite a number were peremptorily rejected. The state has rejected a number because of expressed opposition to capital punishment.

Solicitor George Fountain is being assisted by Attorney Carl L. Bailey, representing the Cooper family, in prosecuting the two defendants. Clifton is represented by W. L. Whitley, of Plymouth, and H. S. Ward, of Washington; while Norman has employed Percy Carmen, attorney of Hampton, Va.

Court attaches estimate that possibly two days will be required to try the case after the jury is selected. This means that trial probably will continue into next week. The jurors are being kept under guard and are sleeping in the jailor's quarters on the third floor of the courthouse.

Mr. Cooper died in the Columbia hospital early Tuesday morning, September 11, after being shot in the back while standing in his store about 11 o'clock the Saturday night before. Norman was arrested by Deputy Sheriff W. D. Peal, of Creswell shortly after the shooting, and, according to officers, admitted he fired the shot.

Following an investigation, Clifton was implicated and arrested by county officers several days later. The two men are being tried jointly on the same charge, and it is indicated the state will seek to prove they are guilty of first-degree murder, which calls for the death penalty if they are found guilty.

The trial is attracting the largest crowds of any term of court in recent years, and the courtroom has been well filled during the preliminary stages. Court officials hope to complete selection of the jury this afternoon and begin hearing testimony immediately afterwards.

## Work Is Completed on Water Tank Last Week

Work on the town water tank was completed last week. The tank was thoroughly overhauled and painted inside and out while the workmen were here, the job requiring about a month's work by four experts.

Originally it was planned to paint the tank, but when an examination was made extensive repairs were found necessary. The tank was rusting through in spots, and considerable welding was done to put it in first-class shape.

## Town in Better Financial Condition; Has Met Sinking Fund Requirements

Town of Plymouth finances are in much better shape now than they were a few months ago, according to a financial report read at the monthly meeting of the council Monday night by City Clerk M. W. Spruill. The report shows that \$8,000 recently was placed into the sinking fund account, and the councilmen ordered that steps be taken to call in that amount of outstanding town bonds.

Mayor E. F. Still reported that a check had been received from

the county ABC board for the town's portion of whiskey store profits for the period January 1, 1944, to October 1, 1945. By the terms of a compromise, the town agreed to accept 7½ per cent of the Plymouth store profits for that period, and 10 per cent thereafter, payable on a quarterly basis.

The mayor stated that after all attorney fees and court costs were paid, the town netted approximately \$2,900 by the compromise settlement with the ABC board.