

Two local fishermen, E. E. Harrell and H. M. Ramsey, caught so many fish last Monday that they tossed back specimens of the finny tribe which ordinarily they would have bragged about when they got home. (That is their story and they vow they'll stick to it.) They went to Rose Bay, in Hyde County, and their choice of fishing grounds was vindicated and, at least partly, verified by the fact that they brought back a G. I. can filled with assorted seafood. Included in the catch were speckled trout, grey trout, hog fish and croakers weighing from one and a half to three pounds.

Fire Chief I. Miller Warren will be in Morehead City next week attending the annual meeting of the State Firemen's Association. Plymouth is supposed to have several delegates, but the chief has been unable to get anyone to accompany him. The association will be in session from Monday through Thursday.

The Labor Day week-end holiday passed very quietly here, with no serious accidents and very few arrests being reported, according to Police Chief P. W. Brown. Many local people went to the beaches or visited friends in near-by towns, and the streets were almost empty. A few played golf, very few, due to the hot weather, and a sizeable number went fishing; but a majority simply hunted the nearest shade and rested.

Walter H. Paramore, who recently resigned as executive secretary of the Whitefish Chamber of Commerce and Merchants Association to accept a similar position at Fuquay Springs, was a visitor in Plymouth last week-end. Mr. Paramore is a former resident of Plymouth, where he was connected with The Roanoke Beacon for about 10 years. He will take up his new work in Fuquay Springs the last of this week.

Ernest Arps, local business man, can lay claim to having caught one of the biggest fish that Conroy Creek ever saw. Last Thursday afternoon, Mr. Arps, using "a weed and a minnow" took a bass that measured about two feet from tip to tip and weighed an even seven pounds. Mr. Arps said that a bigger fish might have been taken from Conroy in the past, but that he never saw or heard of it.

Tom Freeman's Plymouth office is the scene of nightly gatherings of local menfolk who engage in much talk and friendly arguments, mostly about farming. Last week-end, to Mr. Freeman's surprise, he received a copy of the Agricultural Yearbook 1943-47 from Congressman Herbert Bonner who, in an accompanying letter, said that it might be helpful in settling some of the arguments, the fame of which has reached the nation's capitol.

### County Has Total of 21 School Buses Operating

There are 21 school buses in operation in the county school system this year, and there were no reports of trouble from any of them opening day, according to Roy F. Lowry, superintendent. Creswell has the largest number, 9; while there are 5 at the Plymouth school and 6 at Roper. The one bus operated for colored students is at the J. J. Clemmons school in Roper.

### Lions Club To Resume Meetings Every Week

The Plymouth Lions Club will resume their weekly meetings to-night after observing an every-other-week schedule during the summer months. C. W. Dinkins, president of the local organization, has stated. The club will not meet, however, on fifth Thursdays when such occur.

## Reduction in Electric Rates Effective Here

At the present time, residential customers are paying 5 cents for the first 50 kilowatt hours, 2.9 cents for the next 100; 1.9 cents for the next 100, and 1.5 cents for amounts in excess of 250 kilowatt hours. Under the new rate, the charge will be 5 cents for the first 50; 2.5 cents for next 150 and 1.5 cents for the excess. The net saving for users of 250 kilowatt hours or more per month will be about 80 cents per customer. Power company officials estimate the gross savings to power and light customers at one and a half million dollars during the next 12 months.

## Boards of Town and County Meet Monday

Town and county governing boards are all scheduled to hold their regular September meetings next Monday, after having them postponed for one week on account of the Labor Day holiday.

The county board of commissioners and county board of education will meet Monday morning at their respective offices in the courthouse, while the Plymouth City Council will meet in the municipal building at 8 o'clock Monday night.

Routine business will occupy the attention of the county commissioners, while the board of education will check up on the opening of county schools this week and take up any other matters that come up. The Plymouth City Council has some knotty problems to unravel, but members hope to get the budget and tax rate straightened out officially, provided approval of the tentative figures submitted to the Local Government Commission last month is received in time.

## Over 700 Enrolled At School Opening Here Last Tuesday

### Budget Is Lost In State Office

After waiting in vain almost a month for approval by the Local Government Commission of the Town of Plymouth budget estimate for 1947-48, local officials called up Tuesday morning to find out the reason for the delay. After being referred from first one department to another, it was finally learned that no one in Raleigh had ever heard of such a budget, although it was mailed from here on August 5.

Preparations were made immediately to get off a duplicate copy of the budget to the commission, which promised quick action on it. In the meantime, the town has been unable to take any steps to collect taxes on the levy for the current year, as the rate must be approved first by the local government officials. Town officers hope the matter can be ironed out this week.

## One Man Hurt in Series Accidents Sunday, Monday

### Joe Hassell, of Pea Ridge, Hit by Car Near Sound Bridge; Other Wrecks of Minor Nature

Three automobile accidents, involving one serious injury but no fatalities, were reported by Sheriff J. K. Reid for the Labor Day week-end. Highway Patrolman R. W. Young is on vacation, and there was no report available for patrol activities during the period.

Joe Hassell, Pea Ridge resident, was seriously hurt about 10 o'clock Sunday night, when he was struck by a car at the foot of the sound bridge on the Washington County side. Sheriff Reid said he had very little information about the accident, which was investigated by a highway patrolman from Gatesville, and the name of the car driver could not be learned here. It was reported that Mr. Hassell was taken to the Edenton hospital.

The first of the three accidents occurred Sunday afternoon on the curve at Cool Springs, one mile west of Plymouth. A car owned and driven by the Rev. G. C. Bland, of Creswell, crashed into the rear of another car, owned by Annie Rivers, colored, who was driving northbound. (See ACCIDENTS, Page Five)

## Gerald Spencer, 23, Killed Early Today In Auto Accident

Gerald Spencer, 23-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Spencer, of the Cross Roads section, was killed early this morning near his home when the Chrysler automobile he was driving turned over.

Young Spencer had been out with a party of friends and had put them out at their homes and presumably was on his way home when the accident occurred. Alone at the time, tire marks show that the car ran off the road for some distance before turning over and pinning him underneath. It is thought the accident occurred about 2 a. m., and his body was not discovered until 5 o'clock this morning by a passer-by.

The young man was a veteran of World War II, serving in the Marine Corps, and he was wounded in the initial stages of the battle for Iwo Jima. News of his death shocked the community in which he lived, and it was impossible to get details of funeral arrangements this morning. It was considered likely that final rites would be held from his late home Friday afternoon.

## Pupils Being Dismissed Daily at 12:30 Until Alterations and Repairs Are Completed

The 1947-48 school year got off to a flying start Tuesday with the first day's enrollment exceeding that of last year in both the high school and the elementary grades. There were 551 elementary registrants and 157 in the high school, as compared with 550 and 146 in 1946. With the registration of late starters J. S. Fleming, principal of the high school, said he expected the total enrollment to run about 800.

Exercises were held in each home room, due to the fact that the auditorium is still undergoing repairs. Mr. Fleming announced that all of the new class rooms were ready for occupancy the first day and that all were in use.

Opening day confusion was cut to a minimum by an innovation, first tried this year. Prior to Tuesday morning a schedule card had been worked out for each student, showing subjects and hours of classes. Armed with these new schedules the pupils found their new classrooms and found them, for the most part, with unusual promptness. It was a new departure for which the office of the principal, where the work was done, deserves considerable credit.

Approximately one-third of the teachers are new-comers to the faculty, but with two-thirds of his staff veterans Mr. Fleming is experiencing no difficulty in shaping up a smooth-running organization.

At the first teachers' meeting of the new school year, held at the high school Monday, all members of the faculty were present. The meeting opened with an invocation by the Rev. Paul B. Nickens, pastor of the Ludford Memorial Baptist Church. Discussion of school problems followed. At this meeting it was decided to dismiss class for the first week at 12:30, for the convenience of the parents.

## Body Pinned Under Car and Not Discovered for Several Hours; Was Veteran of Iwo Jima

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## Few Drivers Are Taking Exams for License Renewal

### Examiner Expects, Big Rush To Develop Later Part of Year; 225 Examined So Far

Automobile drivers whose names begin with A and B are slow to take the examinations for renewal of their driving permits, according to James T. Boyce, of Plymouth, examiner for the State Highway Patrol. He said yesterday that he had examined about 225 applicants since the new law became effective July 1st, which represents a small fraction of the number of drivers in this county affected.

It is true that the A's and B's have until December 31 in which to take the examinations, but Mr. Boyce expects a last-minute rush to develop shortly before the end of the year that may leave some drivers "out in the cold."

He said there was a widespread misapprehension that the old license would be taken up if a driver failed on his test for renewal. This is not the case. The old license is good until December 31, even if a driver fails on the examination, and he takes up the license only after the applicant has successfully passed the test.

Mr. Boyce averages several examinations each day he is in the office here, but he still has considerable time on his hands which he will not have when the rush starts a little later. He is at the police station in Plymouth on Monday and Tuesdays, from 9 a. m. until 1 p. m., and from 2 p. m. until 5 p. m. On Saturdays he is here for a half day, from 9 a. m. until noon.

## Pastor of Christian Church Here Resigns

Th Rev. E. B. Quick, who has served First Christian church here as pastor for the past four years, tendered his resignation last Sunday. Mr. Quick plans to be located in his new field within two months. A member of the local congregation said yesterday that they had made no plans so far toward securing a new pastor.

## Parking Problem Is Topic of Merchants

Plymouth merchants are still concerned with local parking conditions. At a regular meeting of the merchants association Tuesday, they discussed at considerable length various proposals to induce local business and professional men, as well as their employees, to park their cars elsewhere than in the business section.

It was finally decided that association officials get in touch with all those concerned and ask for cooperation in keeping as many of their cars as possible parked in back lots on Thursdays.

## Bank Here Pays Out \$34,000 Tuesday to Veterans for Bonds

Washington County veterans joined others throughout the nation Tuesday in the big parade to "cash in" their terminal leave bonds. The Branch Banking & Trust Company in Plymouth, only agency in the county authorized to convert the bonds into cash, was crowded with ex-GI's from the time the doors opened Tuesday morning until closing time, and the same condition is expected to prevail to a somewhat lesser degree throughout this week.

H. E. Beam, cashier of the local bank, said that 158 bonds were cashed the first day, ranging in amounts from \$50 to \$700, plus accrued interest, with the grand total of cash issued standing around \$34,000. The average bond was for a little over \$200. He estimated that 95 per cent of the veterans took the cash, with the remaining 5 per cent putting proceeds from the bonds on deposit.

Business in general is expected to receive a "shot in the arm" as a result of the additional currency being placed in circulation. Several merchants here said Tuesday they could see the effects of the bond money reflected in their daily sales, and the ABC store reported receipts more than

## Sales of Tobacco Expected To Show Increase Shortly

### Most County Farmers Are Completing Curings This Week; Price 10 Cents Lower

Sale of Washington County tobacco on near-by markets is expected to pick up sharply in the next week or 10 days, as most farmers are nearing the end of the harvesting and curing season. Comparatively little tobacco from this section has been sold thus far, as many growers have been busy priming and curing, but grading and selling will increase rapidly in another week, according to reports.

Farmers generally are not complaining a great deal about prices, although the general average this year is just about 10 cents under what it was a year ago. Most markets are reporting averages around the \$43 to \$45 mark, with sales light to fairly heavy, due to the late season.

Prices are ranging from \$7.75 for the crudest nondescript to \$61 for good lemon cutters this week, which is slightly better than the last two or three days last week. The bulk of offerings is bringing \$41 to \$54, as compared with \$45 to \$64 opening week last year.

Government reports indicate that the general quality of early sales this season compared favorably with last year in spite of the lateness of the crop. The proportion of fine and choice qualities was smaller, but less common and nondescript grades was marketed.

Observers on the market state that the Flue-Cured Stabilization Corporation is serving as an effective stabilizing factor, but so far the corporation has received a small percentage of the tobacco being marketed. As a rule, the buyers will bid just high enough to keep the tobacco from going to the stabilization corporation. The corporation received 18.5 per cent of the leaf marketed during opening week, but this percentage was said to be slightly lower this week.

Regulations adopted last week provided for a five-hour sales day on markets in this section, starting at 10 a. m. (See TOBACCO, Page Five)

## Opening Day Enrollment About Same as Last Year As County Schools Start

### Enrollment Figures

Below is a tabulation of the opening day enrollment figures for Washington County schools for the 1947-48 and 1946-47 terms, as reported to the county superintendent of schools. Where blank spaces occur, it means that the figures had not been reported to the county office.

	White			Colored		
	H. S.	Ele.	Tot.	H. S.	Ele.	Tot.
Plymouth	157	551	708	146	550	696
Creswell	122	396	518	114	401	515
Roper	71	198	269	68	226	294
Totals	350	1,111	1,461	328	1,177	1,505

  

	White			Colored		
	H. S.	Ele.	Tot.	H. S.	Ele.	Tot.
Cherry		36	36		42	42
Creswell	35	123	158		42	42
Macedonia		49	49		41	41
Morratock		62	62		41	41
Plymouth	79	326	405	93	324	417
Pritchett		39	39		43	43
Sound Side		75	75		24	24
Deep Bottom		48	48		45	45
Brooks		53	53		51	51
Mount Delane		53	53			
Back Woods		57	57			
Roper	67	183	250			
Totals	181	1,104	1,285			

## Officers Are Named At Baseball Meeting

### A. J. Riddle Heads Temporary Group; Organization To Be Completed at Meet in January

Plymouth is several steps nearer organized baseball and is definitely doing something about it.

An organization meeting was held Friday night by 35 or 40 interested fans, and last night the new temporary organization held a meeting in the city clerk's office to work out details for the sale of stock.

A charter has been secured in the name of the Washington County Athletic Association from the Secretary of State and stock certificates have been received from a Virginia engraving firm. The temporary organization, which will function until January 1, 1948 is headed by A. J. Riddle, president. Joe Foster is vice-president and W. A. Roebuck, secretary and treasurer. The Board of Directors include W. H. Joyner, C. L. Bailey, W. B. Rodman, J. L. Phelps, who represents the Town of Creswell, and L. L. Mizelle, who represents the Town of Roper.

Lighting equipment, made by General Electric and of the same type as that used in the Yankee Stadium in New York has been ordered. The order has been acknowledged and shipment is promised on March 1 of next year.

The field is a tract of land donated by the Still Realty and Insurance Company in Stillacres and adjoining the site of the new high school, in fact, includes a part of the high school athletic field. Details will be worked out at a meeting with the Board of Education Monday whereby something in the nature of a permanent lease of the joint property will be secured.

Stock in the amount of \$15,000 to \$20,000 will be sold locally, it is hoped.

The backers of the new association point out that Plymouth and Washington County are baseball conscious. Fans drive nightly from as far as Creswell and Wena to see games at Edenton, Washington and other distant points. They think it logical that these same fans had much rather come to Plymouth and that they will support the project.

## Local Football Boys Have Pictures Made

Members of the Plymouth High School football squad had their pictures taken after the practice session Tuesday night. O. M. Plumlee, proprietor of Plumlee's Photo & Art Shop here, did the work, assisted by A. F. Ferguson, on the lawn in front of the American Fork & Hoe Company plant.

A group picture was taken of the whole squad, and then groups of three or four players were photographed. It is planned to run a series of the photos in The Beacon over a period of several weeks.

## All Teaching Positions Filled; Expect Attendance to Increase During Next Few Weeks

The 15 public schools in Washington County opened for the 1947-48 term Tuesday morning, with a minimum of fanfare and formal programs, so far as can be learned here. Enrollment figures for opening day vary somewhat from those of a year ago, from school to school, but the grand total is expected to be about the same or a little larger, when all reports are in.

The late tobacco crop may be responsible for keeping some rural children out of school for a few weeks, especially colored. For that reason the enrollment should show a sizeable gain after the next couple of weeks.

Registration generally was completed at the opening sessions Tuesday, fees were collected, and books and lesson assignments were handed out yesterday. Today is the first day for regular classroom work in most of the schools. It is understood that all teaching positions have been filled, although substitutes are holding down jobs in a few cases.

The Plymouth white schools again showed an increased opening day enrollment, and the same held true at Creswell while the total for the Roper school was somewhat lower than last year. Reports from the colored schools are not complete, and there is a big variation in comparison with last year among the nine which have reported.

The table accompanying this article gives the opening day enrollment last year and this year for all the schools which had made reports to County Superintendent Roy F. Lowry up to yesterday afternoon.

## Local Policeman

Night Policeman Alvin Allen had a close call early Tuesday night, when he was attacked by Henry Mayo, colored, whom the officer was taking to jail in the town police car.

Mayo was arrested earlier on a charge of attempting to steal an automobile. As the officer was unlocking a cell in the county jail, Mayo broke away and escaped along the riverfront here. He was recaptured a few minutes later by Night Policeman Foy Davenport, who turned the prisoner back over to Mr. Allen to take to jail.

Allen placed Mayo in the back seat of the police car and again started to jail with him. On Main street, near the courthouse, the Negro suddenly reached over and grabbed the officer's tie, choking him with it, while grappling for his gun. Allen managed to stop the car, and his call for help was answered by Aubrey Spruill and several others, who held the prisoner until Officer Davenport arrived and placed him in jail.

Mayo is said to have a lengthy police record. He is now charged with assaulting an officer as well as attempted theft of an automobile.

## Revival Series To Begin Monday at Union Chapel

A series of revival services will begin next Monday night at the Union Chapel Free Will Baptist church, located on the Long Acre Road, and continue for one week. The services will be in charge of the Rev. J. A. Alexander, of Norfolk, Va., pastor of the church, and will start at 8 p. m. each night. The public is invited to attend.

## Farm Bureau To Meet Here 12th

Announcement was made yesterday by J. C. Tankerton, president, that the regular Farm Bureau meeting scheduled for the first Friday of each month had been postponed this month to the second Friday, September 12. The session will be set for 8 p. m. in the agriculture building in Plymouth.

At the meeting a campaign will be launched for 1948 membership in the bureau. George Watson, prominent farmer and corn breeder, of Rocky Mount, will be the principal speaker for the occasion.

A card sent to members this week states that light refreshments, possibly including barbecue, will be served, and a large attendance is urged.

## Request for Food Voiced in Letter From Germany

The following letter was received by Archie J. Riddle, mayor of Plymouth, who turned it over to the Roanoke Beacon for publication. The letter was written by Elise Paatzsch, a German girl who lives in Tannenber, a town in the Russian occupied sector of the Reich. The letter, as best it could be made out, reads as follows:

"Most Honored Sir Mayor: Excuse please our great request. We are in great trouble because we don't know how to feed ourselves. We live in the Erzgebirge, that is in Saxony, and is also very poor in farmings. The ground is sterile and the climate rough. You may believe us that there are many days where our great family nearly has nothing to eat.

(See ASK FOR FOOD, Page 5)

## Christmas Lights Are Assured by Merchants

Chief of Police P. W. Brown, who had charge of putting up the lights in pre-war years, told the group that a good many bulbs and part of the necessary wiring was on hand. The merchants voted an appropriation up to \$300 to secure whatever additional is needed, and appointed President W. J. Woolard, W. S. Davenport and Jack Davenport to look after the details.

Plymouth merchants took steps at a meeting Tuesday afternoon to assure Christmas lights on the streets here during the holiday season. The matter was discussed at the merchants association gathering, and a committee was named to buy the necessary materials and make arrangements for having the varicolored lights strung and turned on as soon as possible after December 1.