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ESTABLISHED 1889

Roper Fire Truck Is Delivered to Town Last Week

Machine Shows Up Well Under Tests Given by Department; Purchase Price \$1,250

The new fire truck for the Roper Fire Department was delivered there last week from Easley, S. C., where it was purchased by the Roper fire department...

In a tryout test of the machine made Friday, all points of the truck were put through their paces and bore up very well...

The fire truck is a 1928 American-La France 500-gallon pumper and is equipped with a 12-foot roof ladder and a 24-foot extension ladder...

The Roper fire department has 20 volunteer members with R. E. Harrell serving as fire chief.

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Officials Report Diphtheria Case

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Mrs. Wolfe, whose condition is reported as satisfactory, is the fourth victim of the disease in Washington County this year...

Roper Colored School Band to Give Concert

The J. J. Clemmons High School Band, directed by C. D. Wooten, instructor, will appear with the school's glee club in a cantata, "The Christmas Story," tonight at 8 o'clock in the school auditorium...

Next Tuesday Shortest Day

According to the old almanac, next Monday, December 22, will be the shortest day of the year, with the sun rising at 7:15 a. m. and setting at 4:41 p. m.

The calendar also lists Monday as the first day of the winter season. This may be true in some sections of the nation, but residents of Washington County and surrounding areas view the statement with skepticism...

Another Still Is Found by Officers

Law enforcement officials, led by County ABC Officer L. L. Basnight, raided and demolished an illicit whiskey factory on the Scuppernon River, near Creswell, last Saturday around 12:30 p. m.

Captured in the raid were two barrels containing 200 gallons of working mash, a cooling keg, buckets and jugs, a shovel and an ax. Other equipment used in making the whiskey was not found, nor was the owner of the business on the job when the officers made their raid.

Accompanying Officer Basnight were Deputy Sheriff W. D. Peal and Clyde Snell. Earlier in the week, a more complete distilling unit together with 400 gallons of mash were taken and destroyed by law officials near Plymouth.

But Few Days Left for A and B Drivers To Take Exam for Renewal of Licenses

Automobile License Examiner James Boyce has reminded drivers in Washington County that there are only four and one-half days left in which re-examinations will be given to drivers in the A-B surname group...

Mr. Boyce will be in the Municipal Building in Plymouth on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9 a. m. until 5 p. m. and on Saturdays from 9 a. m. until 1 p. m.

Fund for Creswell Gymnasium Rises To About \$6,000

Money for School Athletics Building Increased by County Board Appropriations

Officials in the Creswell Parent-Teacher Association, meeting in the school last Thursday, reported that the fund for the construction of a gymnasium, sponsored by the PTA, has risen to approximately \$6,000...

The gym project had been begun by the Creswell PTA unit some months ago and, through sponsoring several drives and public entertainments, a sum of around \$5,000 had been raised for the construction of the building.

Previously a delegation had appeared before the commissioners and requested aid in the project but were refused since the county's budget would not permit such a move.

Other matters considered by the group during the business session were of a routine nature. The program consisted of Christmas musical readings by members of the churches in the town followed by a tableau depicting the Birth of Our Lord.

County Is Given Bus Replacement

The latest school bus replacement for Washington County was delivered at the Plymouth School Friday morning, according to a statement from Roy F. Lowry, county schools' superintendent...

The new bus is a Chevrolet with a 19-foot body and forward seating arrangement. It was delivered to Plymouth from Wilson. The new bus is approximately the seventh such replacement to be made in Washington County since the replacement program began last year.

VFW Post Will Convene In Courthouse Tonight

The Plymouth post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars will meet in the courthouse tonight at 8 o'clock, according to an announcement from W. S. Davenport, post commander. He said that principal topic for discussion will be means for raising money for the construction of the joint Legion-VFW clubhouse.

Present Football Trophy To Team Here This Week

The football championship trophy of the Albemarle Athletic Association's conference for 1947 season was awarded to Plymouth High School's football team by B. G. Stewart of Williamston, secretary of the association...

The trophy, a 12-inch hardwood pedestal topped with a gold-colored metal figurine of a football player, was accepted on behalf of the school by Joe Reid, captain of the local team. Following the presentation recognition was given Coach George Z. Ingle and the six players chosen as all-conference stars.

to give the tests. Saturday, December 27, will be an exception since the examiner will be on annual Christmas vacation. Boyce stated that during the first two weeks of December the anticipated rush of persons who waited almost until the last minute to take their re-exams really got down to business and so swamped the Plymouth examination center that an extra road test examiner had to be engaged. He pointed out that from December 1 until December 15, three times as many examinations were given as during the entire month of November when approximately 250 persons applied for new licenses. There were comparatively few rejections, he said, for the December examinees considering the unusually large number of applicants. Examinations for persons in the C-D surname group will be given in the January 1-June 30 period which starts in two weeks, he said.

CANDIDATE VISITS HERE TUESDAY



R. Mayne Albright and Mrs. Albright pose in front of their trailer campaign headquarters, "The Challenger." Mr. Albright visited Plymouth on Tuesday while on his 100-county tour of North Carolina campaign to secure the Democratic nomination for election to the State's governorship.

Stores To Be Open Later for Shoppers

Peak of Christmas Buying Is Expected to Take Place This Week-End

Beginning this Friday, all business houses in Plymouth will remain open until 9 p. m. each night for the convenience of persons who are unable to do their gift buying during the daylight hours. In addition to providing this extra service, the majority of the local stores have engaged a larger staff of clerks to aid shoppers in selecting gift purchases, while one or two of the stores have set up gift wrapping departments.

According to reports from Plymouth merchants this week, business is not as good as had been anticipated, although it was predicted that an increase would be seen during the week-end and extending right up to 9 p. m. on Christmas Eve.

Perhaps the keenest indicator of the lessening of holiday business is contained in a report from the local ABC store whose officials stated that a 30 per cent decrease in the volume of sales below last year's record for the same period had been noted.

Stocks in the Plymouth stores continue good although waiting lists for the larger items such as electric stoves, refrigerators, and some makes of washing machines have been piled up. Christmas tree decorations are available but scarce, especially extra electric bulbs, although strings of lights, complete with the colored bulbs, are much in evidence.

As for fancy wrapping paper, ribbon, tags and seals for tying up gift packages, they are apparently plentiful though they may be sold out before the shopping season ends. Christmas trees are also available, but the better specimens have been sold.

Elwood Gurganus House Is Burned

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Gurganus, located on the Whiteoak Neck Road about five miles from Plymouth, was completely destroyed, along with most of its contents, by flames originating from an alleged faulty chimney around 9:30 p. m. on Sunday. The house was owned by Sidney Allen.

Mr. and Mrs. Gurganus and their three children, James, Evelyn, and Ralph, were downstairs at the time the fire was discovered and barely had time to escape before the roof of the structure began to cave in. Only a few pieces of kitchen furniture and some clothing was saved. Until more permanent living quarters can be secured, the family is living with Mr. Gurganus' father, J. L. Gurganus, and Daston Ambrose, a neighbor.

Report Result on Community Ballot In AAA Election

New Committeemen Take Offices Immediately; Total Number of Votes Cast Is 189

Triple-A community committeemen for all seven sections of the county were elected last week, the balloting taking place at the same time as the referendum on the establishment of peanut marketing quotas, with total votes cast in Washington County amounting to 189.

Delegates from each community were chosen by voters to attend the County AAA convention held in Plymouth on Wednesday of last week when a county AAA committee was elected for the coming year.

New committeemen for each community, according to a statement made by Miss Miriam Aushon, county AAA secretary, are as follows: Plymouth: H. G. Simpson, chairman; L. S. Stynes, vice-chairman; L. T. Gurganus, regular member; E. H. Liverman and A. S. Allen, alternates; Roper: F. C. Tarkenton, chairman; R. W. Lewis, vice-chairman; Wendell C. Spruill, regular member; Roy C. Chesson and W. A. Koonce, alternates; Creswell: Sam D. Spruill, chairman; W. D. Phelps, vice-chairman; Marvin L. Davenport, regular member; Stanley Oliver and Isaac Furlough, alternates.

Pleasant Grove: T. R. Spruill, chairman; W. C. Spruill, vice-chairman; J. C. Tarkenton, regular member; Jack Gurkin and C. G. Gurganus, alternates; Long Acre: R. C. Jackson, chairman; L. J. Beddard, vice-chairman; W. J. Ange, regular member; A. J. Newberry and E. H. Boyd, alternates; Mount Pleasant: L. L. Davenport, chairman; L. T. Snell, vice chairman; P. B. Belanga, regular member; W. H. Stillman and D. H. Furlough, alternates; Cherry: Steve Davenport, chairman; L. A. Furlough, vice-chairman; I. S. Phelps, regular member; R. A. Gibbs and P. L. Ambrose, alternates.

Pleasant Grove community led the voting with 53 votes cast while Roper community trailed second with 38. Creswell and Cherry tied for bottom place with 10 ballots each.

Terms for the new committeemen will begin immediately. The polls were held in the balloting last week by members of the retiring committees.

Local Soldier Finishes Training in California

Private Ralph M. Armstrong, of Plymouth, has completed a basic training program in Company E of the Twelfth Regiment of the Fourth Infantry Division at Fort Ord, Calif., and is on orders for further duty at Camp Stoneman, according to an Army release.

Christian Church Will Call Pastor

Members of the First Christian Church of Plymouth will conduct a meeting in the church's auditorium immediately after morning services next Sunday for the purpose of calling a pastor, H. H. Allen, superintendent of the church's Sunday school, has reported.

Mr. Allen stated that several prospective pastors for the church will be considered with the congregation expressing their preference at the meeting. The church's pastorate has been vacant since the resignation of the Rev. E. B. Quick several weeks ago when he accepted a call to the Lumberton church. Services have been held by guest pastors in the meantime.

Most Local Places Close Two Days for Christmas

All places of business in Plymouth, the restaurants excepted, will be closed on Christmas Day and the day afterward, re-opening for business on Saturday, December 27. The local eating places will be open for regular meals on Christmas Day. Although two of the local drug stores will be closed on Christmas, they will reopen on the day afterward. The third drug store will observe the same two-day closing schedule taken by other businesses. All offices in the courthouse

Creswell School Bids Rejected by Board Education

Beacon to Be Printed Early

Since the Christmas week edition of The Roanoke Beacon is being printed over this weekend, all correspondents and contributors to the newspaper are requested to place their copy in the mails so that it will be received at the Beacon office no later than Saturday, December 20.

Episcopal Groups Alone Hold Rites On Christmas Day

Other Religious Groups in Plymouth Plan to Present Cantatas on Sunday Evening

So far as can be learned at present, Episcopal church groups in Plymouth and Roper are the only ones in Washington County who plan special services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, although all churches will have special sermons and music on the Sunday immediately preceding Christmas and two Plymouth churches have planned cantatas on that date.

Celebration of Holy Communion will be held in Grace Episcopal Church in Plymouth on Christmas Eve, beginning at 11:30 p. m., which will be followed by a sermon by the rector. Communion will again be observed at Grace Church on Christmas Day itself at 9 a. m., while St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Roper will hold celebration of Holy Communion, followed by a sermon by the rector, at 11 a. m. on Christmas.

The two cantatas to be held in Plymouth will be presented by the Methodist church in the sanctuary at 5 p. m. and by the Baptist church in the courtroom of the county courthouse at 7 p. m.

The Methodist cantata is entitled "The Christmas Story," and will be presented by candle light under the direction of Mrs. Kenneth S. Trowbridge, with J. Shepherd Brinkley as organist. The (See CHURCHES, Page Five)

Candidate Visits Town on Tuesday

R. Mayne Albright, 38, youngest candidate for Democratic nomination in North Carolina's gubernatorial elections being held next year, visited Plymouth Tuesday in his trailer field headquarters, "The Challenger."

Mr. Albright, accompanied by his wife, spent the day visiting with residents of the town and getting acquainted with this section of the State in general. Washington County was the fifty-second of the State's 100 counties visited by Albright in his campaign to carry political issues direct to the voting populace.

He was scheduled to be in Plymouth on Monday, but was detained by bad weather. After leaving here, he went to Williamston.

No Prospects for General Construction of Creswell Building Is Reason for Action

Members of the Washington County Board of Education, meeting in special session in the superintendent's office here last Thursday afternoon, rejected all bids made on various aspects of the construction of a new colored school house at Creswell since no bids had been received on the general construction of the building.

Although the board had advertised for sealed bids on four different aspects of the school's construction, its intention being to let separate contracts for general construction, heating, plumbing, and electrical installations, only a few bids were received. These were three bids on electrical installations, one on heating plant work, and none for the general construction and plumbing.

An alternative course for the building of the school house, considered by the board at the special meeting, was employment of a construction crew and supervisor on a flat-fee basis as was done in the case of the Plymouth High School additions and renovations, but no definite action was taken in that direction.

Another called meeting of the education group will be held at which time estimates of the total cost of construction on a flat-fee basis will be studied by the board members who may then make some final decision on the matter. Date of the second called meeting was not decided upon, but it is expected to be held by January 1.

Music System Is Given for Spire of Local Church

The Ludford Memorial Baptist Church in Plymouth has been presented with a Schulerer Electric Tower Music System, given by Mr. and Mrs. J. Bertson Trump and daughter in memory of their son and brother, John Trump, Jr., according to an announcement from the Rev. Paul B. Nickens, pastor of the church.

The music system, one of the best produced in the United States, is equipped with four loudspeakers which will be installed in the church belfry in the near future and will carry recorded chime music over the entire town. The system carries sound within a radius of one mile.

No definite schedule has yet been worked out, the pastor said, but added that the system will be operated about three times per week, either at noon or in the late afternoon.

Commenting further on the progress made in the reconstruction of the church building, the Rev. Nickens stated that the plastering of the interior is now in progress and that the hardwood flooring has arrived and will be installed shortly. He also pointed out that donations from the congregation to the building fund is averaging between \$600 and \$700 per month which is considerably beyond the contributive amount asked.

Total cost of the work is expected to be between \$28,000 and \$30,000.

Local PTA Holds Final Meet Here

The Plymouth Parent-Teacher Association, holding its final meeting of 1947 in the high school last Thursday night, heard a concert by the school's glee club. Selections rendered were appropriate to the Yuletide season.

Mrs. Edison Davenport related several Christmas stories to the group, following the glee club's songs. During the business session, which was very brief, the stage curtain of the school was ordered cleaned and re-hung. Other business was of a routine nature. Mrs. H. C. Carter, president of the local unit, presided at the Thursday night session.