

Heavy Snowfall Climaxes Week-End of Bad Weather

One of the heaviest snowfalls occurring in Washington County since a 6-inch fall in Dec. 1943 came Sunday, local residents stating that the first flakes began to come down around 6 a. m. with an approximate 4-inch precipitation taking place within the next four hours.

Let Contract for Part Road Project

Groundhog Sees Shadow Monday

All Washington County residents who put faith in the annual weather prediction made by the Groundhog each February 2, have announced that the next 40 days will be filled with bitter cold, for the Groundhog, who emerged from his burrow at noon on Monday, found the sun shining and most certainly saw his shadow.

Skippersville Now Leading in Listing Taxes

List Taker Reports 90-95 Per Cent Taxpayers Appeared; Scuppernon in Second Place

According to County Tax Supervisor Hubert L. Davenport, Skippersville Township, with Walter W. White list taker, is leading the county in the percentage of taxpayers who have appeared before Mr. White to list taxes in the current period.

Scuppernon Township, Paul B. Belanga list taker, is running Skippersville a close second, Davenport said, Mr. Belanga recording an estimated 80 to 85 per cent of taxpayers, while Plymouth Township, Mrs. Hermine Ramsey list taker, is third with a recorded 75 per cent listing.

Lees Mill Township occupies the bottom position in the county with only about 65 per cent of taxpayers appearing before List Taker R. W. Lewis who is also covering the Wenona section.

In the lower end of the county, Supervisor Davenport reported, the majority of delinquents are colored people and young men and women who have just begun old enough to be subject to poll tax. In the upper end of the county, he said, some of the most glaring examples of failing to appear on time for the listings have been set by some of the section's most prominent residents. Poll tax delinquency, however, the supervisor said, is generally outstanding throughout the county. Farmers are being quite cooperative about reporting for the farm census which is being taken this year for the last time before 1953.

Some delinquency in making out tax lists has been due to bad weather so the county commissioners allowed an extension of the listing period, until February 14, to make up for the loss.

Mary Pettiford, 60-year-old colored resident of Plymouth, suffered a fractured back when a Carolina Trailways bus on which she was a passenger skidded off the highway and turned over in a ditch about five miles from Tarboro Friday afternoon.

Six other passengers were slightly injured and another 19 badly shaken up by the accident. The Plymouth woman was most seriously hurt. All were taken to a Tarboro hospital for treatment. The bus was en route from Raleigh to Williamston at the time the accident occurred.

Councilmen Hold Regular Meeting Here on Monday

Discuss Alleged Misuse of Police Car; Defer Planned Buildings Sale Until 1949

The Plymouth town council, meeting in regular session at the Municipal Building Monday night, held much heated discussion concerning the use, or some statements have phrased it, the misuse of the town's police car.

One councilman reported that he had had numerous complaints from residents of the town that the car, while on night duty, had been seen at points beyond the city limits. He added that the average mileage shown on the car, according to checks made, was 57 miles per night for each night during January.

In order to clarify the situation, Police Chief P. W. Brown stated that since the city limits were extended last June, the car must travel much farther in its nightly check-up rounds which extend now from Little Richwood Village to Stillacres. Six rounds per night are made, he said. The chief added, however, that the car should not be taken outside the city limits at any time, but that he knew of no instance in which this had occurred.

Considering the problem of re-advertising the Municipal Building and fire house for sale at public auction, the council voted to let things remain as they are until the State General Assembly meets in 1949 and have the property disposed of by authority of a special legislative act.

Luther Gurkin appeared before the board and requested that he be allowed to continue in occupancy of a warehouse owned by the town and located behind the Horton Town Road to the effect that they will sign right-of-way agreements with the State Highway Department so that the road project can be completed.

The clerk of the board was instructed to notify Mrs. J. H. Gaylord, Jr., of Roper, that she is to secure from landowners who have property bordering on the unfinished Horton Town Road to the effect that they will sign right-of-way agreements with the State Highway Department so that the road project can be completed.

The work being done on the road was halted some time ago because the State lacked rights of way from several property owners in that section and could not legally proceed with the work on the road. The clerk was also instructed to forward a copy of his letter to Mrs. Gaylord to J. J. Gilbert, district highway engineer.

Arrangements were made to have a special meeting of the county board relative to the proposed \$50,000 hospital bond issue as soon as certain papers from New York bonding attorneys are received by the board.

Reports were heard from Mrs. Frances M. Darden, county home demonstration agent, and from E. J. Spruill, county auditor and tax collector. Jim Hamilton was employed as custodian of the county courthouse and the Agriculture Building for the month of February. Frank L. Brinkley, chairman of the county board, presiding at the Monday meeting.

None Injured in Thursday Wreck

All persons involved escaped injury although considerable damage was done to the 1946 Oldsmobile sedan driven by Plymouth Attorney Carl L. Bailey when it collided with a 1941 Ford sedan, driven by John Coletrain, of Jamesville, and a Martin County school bus, several miles west of Jamesville last Thursday around 4 p. m.

Coletrain, followed by Bailey, was meeting the school bus when the bus driver dropped the vehicle's "stop" sign. Coletrain immediately applied his brakes and Bailey, unable to stop his car at such abrupt notice, struck the rear of Coletrain's car and the front of the bus. Both fenders and the radiator grill of the Bailey car were demolished. No damage was sustained by either of the other two vehicles. Coletrain admitted being at fault and damage payments will be arranged out of court. Martin County Highway Patrolman Whit Saunders investigated the accident.

Income Tax Man To Be Here Soon

A deputy collector of internal revenue will be located in Plymouth at the post office from Wednesday, February 8, through Friday, February 20, to aid taxpayers in making out forms for the filing of 1947 federal income tax returns, it has been announced. Hours to be maintained by the deputy are 9:30 a. m. to 5 p. m.

All persons who earned \$500 or more during the calendar year of 1947 are required to file a return, it was pointed out. The taxpayer may use his withholding statements given him by his employer for this purpose, or he may use form 1040 which can be secured at the post office. Returns must be filed by March 15 with the regional collector of internal revenue at Greensboro.

County Schools Resume Classes

Classes in the Washington County Schools were resumed at the regular hours on Wednesday morning following a two-day closure necessitated by heavy snows which blanketed this section on Sunday.

Light Agenda Is Presented County Board on Monday

Groundwork Laid to Secure Rights of Way for Completion of County Road Project

The Washington County Board of Commissioners, meeting in regular session in the courthouse on Monday, was presented with a light, though varied, agenda. Notice was given the tax-paying residents of the county that the period for listing taxes will be extended from February 8, next Sunday, through February 14, the following Saturday, due to adverse weather conditions in January which kept many taxpayers away from the listing places.

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Extend Tax Listing Period To Include All Next Week

Only One Car Halted for Not Having New Licenses

So far only one automobile driver attempting to travel the highways in this section without a 1948 license plate has been apprehended, according to reports from Highway Patrolman John Sanderson, who made the arrest on Monday afternoon.

Sanderson reported that Connie Ray Askew, white resident of Pinetown, was arrested by him on Highway 32 for not displaying the new license plates. Deadline for driving with a 1947 license, Sanderson pointed out, was last Saturday, January 31.

From now on, he stated, all drivers must display the new plates and, if Plymouth residents, city tags as well, or suffer the consequences.

Askew, the patrolman added, will be given a hearing in Washington County Recorder's Court shortly. As far as the rest of the county's drivers are concerned, he said, everyone seems to have secured the 1948 plates from the stations in Williamston, Edenton, or Washington.

Polio Strikes Child at Roper

Robert Lee Simpson, two-year-old Roper Negro child, was stricken with infantile paralysis last Wednesday and has been removed to St. Agnes hospital in Raleigh for treatment of the disease, officials in the Washington-Tyrrrell District Health Department have reported.

The polio case, the health department stated, was the first reported to them this year. The child, they said, is the son of Cornelius and Carrie Lee Simpson. Three other children, they added, live in the same house, but have so far not been infected with the disease.

John Darden Said To Be Improving

The Hon. John W. Darden, Washington County representative to the State General Assembly, who suffered a stroke of paralysis last Friday morning is reported by relatives to be resting comfortably at present although his condition is still regarded as serious.

Some improvement has been noted since Friday, they stated, and Mr. Darden has regained powers of both sight and speech to some extent.

Mr. Darden has been in ill health for some time and had suffered a series of strokes last year. In the fall, he entered a hospital in Durham for treatment and while there underwent several serious operations.

Extra School Bus Is Requested for Clemmons School

Education Board Also Holds Conference on Proposed Changes in Local Heating Plant

Appearing before the county board of education, meeting in regular session here on Monday, two representatives of the J. J. Clemmons School at Roper, William Johnston and Charlie Basnight, requested the members of the board to investigate all possible means of securing an additional school bus to serve the school.

The Clemmons School representatives pointed out that the one bus which now services the school is not able to give sufficient service in transporting adequately all rural students to and from classes each school day. Members of the board took no final action on the matter, but promised to investigate it as soon as possible.

The education group also conducted a conference with heating unit contractors on recommended changes for the heating unit of the new section of the Plymouth High School. Recommended changes include completion of all convactor enclosures and pipe coverings and the lowering of the water level of the boiler. The recommendation was made by the contractors because of the loss of heat in the steam mains not yet covered and because too much water is being carried into the boiler by the feed pipes. The board agreed to have the changes made and the contractors agreed to do the work this week-end.

County Board Grants Listers Extra Time Because of Bad Weather in Month of January

The period for the listing of taxes in Washington County has been extended to Saturday, February 14, according to action taken by the county board of commissioners, meeting in the county courthouse on Monday.

The commissioners, reviewing reports on the scantiness of the number of taxpayers appearing before the list takers during the regular period of January 1 through January 31, decided that adverse weather conditions were responsible in keeping a large part of persons away from the list takers' post, hence the extension of the listing period.

The county board in notifying the public of the extension, pointed out that failure to report to the list takers on or before February 14 will subject any person, firm, or corporation to all penalties according to the State tax laws and that such delinquents will also be liable to prosecution in the courts.

List takers for the various townships in Washington County are as follows: Plymouth Township, Mrs. Hermine Ramsey; Lees Mill Township, R. W. Lewis; Skippersville Township, White; Scuppernon Township, Paul B. Belanga; Hubert L. Davenport is county tax assessor. The list takers will be working in the same places as during the regular listing period.

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Leave of absence was granted for the remainder of the year to Margaret H. Berry, colored teacher at the Brooks School, for reasons of health.

Over 1,500 Pounds Clothing Collected in Drive

A total of 1,534 pounds of new and used clothing were collected by canvassers in Plymouth for the local overseas clothing relief drive and have now been sent to New Windsor, Md., for shipment to European victims of the recent war, Mrs. Woodrow R. Collins, chairman of the campaign, has announced. The relief drive, which was sponsored by the Wesleyan Guild of the Plymouth Methodist Church, was more than satisfactory, Mrs. Collins said, adding that all contributions made by local stores and private citizens were of very good quality.

Several merchants, local civic organizations and the Atlas Plywood Corporation donated a total sum of \$40 to pay shipping costs of sending the packages to Maryland, the chairman pointed out. The donations were packed on Sunday and sent to the European distribution center on the following day, she said.

A total of 65 cartons of clothing, shoes, toys, soaps, and sewing materials were contributed by Plymouth residents, Mrs. Collins reported. Large quantities of new articles of clothing, she said, were given by the merchants of the town and one hardware store donated three pitchforks. The chairman added that a great number of games and toys were also included in the donation made by the townspeople. Collection centers were maintained at the Municipal Building and at Mrs. Collins' home in Country Club Village. Twenty-four townswomen served as canvassers for the drive. The campaign was conducted for one week, beginning on Monday, January 26, and ending on Saturday, January 31.