



THE ROANOKE BEACON

AND WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS

A home newspaper dedicated to the service of Washington County and its 13,000 people.

Town Topics

It is not known just what the Christmas Day bill of fare usually consists of in the local jail but at any rate no one appeared anxious to find out by spending the day there. There were no arrests in Plymouth Christmas and Police Chief P. W. Brown stated that it was the quietest holiday period in his recollection.

Work is progressing steadily on the new Esso Servicenter being erected at the corner of Main and Washington Streets here but a great amount of work remains to be done. It was stated this week that the construction is hoped to be completed by the last of February. It will be operated by Mack Marrow.

Today and tomorrow being the fifth Thursday and Friday of the month there is no meeting scheduled tonight (Thursday) for members of the Plymouth Lions Club and the Bosie Bateman Post No. 4023. Veterans of Foreign Wars and tomorrow night (Friday) for members of the James E. Jethro Post No. 164, American Legion. The Lions Club and VFW will meet at their respective places next Thursday night, January 5. The next meeting for the American Legion is Friday night, January 13.

Police Chief P. W. Brown states that workers will begin taking down Christmas decorations from the streets of Plymouth Monday morning. The multi-colored lights will be carefully stored away for use next Christmas holiday season. The lights were hung under the supervision of Chief Brown.

License Bureau Sales Have Been Very Slow Here

Only 317 Sets of Plates Issued Through Wednesday; Deadline January 31, 1950

Up to Tuesday, 317 sets of North Carolina license plates of all types had been issued through the branch auto license bureau recently established here, according to figures obtained from F. G. Jordan, Jr., manager of the bureau. Sales appear to be definitely lagging when it is considered that less than five weeks remain in which to operate a motor vehicle displaying the old plates and that the Motor Vehicle Bureau in Raleigh estimated the needs of the local branch at 3,380 sets.

Plates issued thus far, including sales through Wednesday, are listed according to categories as follows: Automobiles, 242; motorcycles, 5; private trucks, 38; farm trucks, 10; class Z (small) trailers, 22; class C (commercial) trailers, none.

The number of sets sent to the bureau here, listed according to categories, follows: Automobile, 2,500; private truck, 500; farm truck, 100; motorcycle, 25; small trailer, 200; and commercial trailer, 55.

Mr. Jordan points out that it costs the same amount to secure license plates regardless of the time and that it is to the interest of everyone concerned to secure licenses early. If the majority of the motor vehicle owners put off getting their license plates until near the deadline, it will mean that the local bureau will be unable to give the fast service it would like to extend the public. Therefore, the bureau manager urges everyone to come in as soon as possible and get the job done. The deadline is January 31.

Christmas Holiday Period Was Very Quiet Throughout County

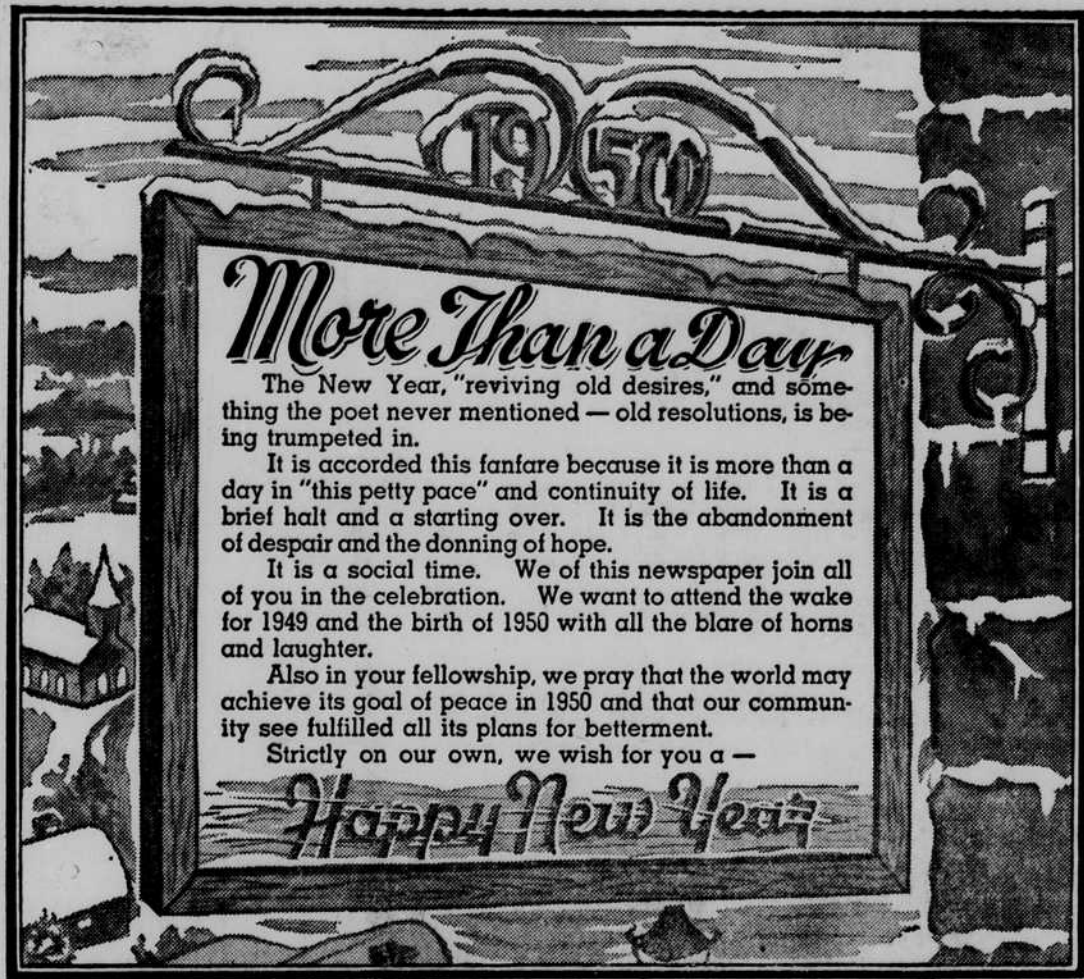
General behavior in Plymouth and Washington County was very good over the Christmas holiday season, according to reports from Sheriff J. K. Reid, Plymouth Police Chief P. W. Brown and other law enforcement officers.

Police Chief Brown says that not a single arrest was made by his department over the Christmas holiday week-end and that the only persons taking their Christmas dinner at the local jail

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More Than a Day

The New Year, "reviving old desires," and something the poet never mentioned—old resolutions, is being trumpeted in.

It is accorded this fanfare because it is more than a day in "this petty pace" and continuity of life. It is a brief halt and a starting over. It is the abandonment of despair and the donning of hope.

It is a social time. We of this newspaper join all of you in the celebration. We want to attend the wake for 1949 and the birth of 1950 with all the blare of horns and laughter.

Also in your fellowship, we pray that the world may achieve its goal of peace in 1950 and that our community see fulfilled all its plans for betterment.

Strictly on our own, we wish for you a—

Happy New Year

Details Shape Up for Taking 1950 Census

Residents Urged Pay Taxes Early

Plymouth residents have been reminded by P. W. Brown, local police chief, that their town taxes are now payable at par and will be until February 1, after which 1 per cent interest will be charged to delinquent payers. March 1 another 1 per cent interest accrues and 1/2 of 1 per cent interest will be added for each additional month thereafter. This schedule of interest is charged by law and applies as well to state and county taxes.

Mr. Brown has urged all citizens to appear at the office of the town clerk and pay their taxes as soon as possible and thus avoid the interest.

Plymouth High to Meet Roper Here

Coach Joe Foster will send his Plymouth High School basketball team into their first post-holiday encounters at the high school gymnasium here next Tuesday night. The locals entertain Roper High School teams, and it is reported that the Bantams—the Roper girls' aggregation—are undefeated this season.

Plymouth teams have played two games thus far this season, both encounters with Jamesville before the Christmas holidays. Jamesville girls and boys edged out the locals at Jamesville and administered sound lickings to the Plymouth teams in return games here.

Next Friday, January 6, the Plymouth teams begin their conference schedule by meeting Columbia here.

Services of 150,000 People Will Be Needed To Handle Big Task, Beginning on April 1 Next Year

The Bureau of the Census will hold the mirror up to the nation and its progress next Spring when it conducts the 17th Decennial Census.

A variety of interesting and important facts will be collected concerning the population and the economy, all testifying to the nation's remarkable growth and expansion. But of even deeper significance in view of the trend of the times, the Census will provide fresh evidence of the dynamics of a free and democratic society, and will thus represent a tribute to what the American people have accomplished by self-reliance, enterprise, hard work and thrift.

The official starting date for the count is April, but it will actually get underway earlier in Alaska so that those who live in remote regions, like Eskimos in their villages above the Arctic Circle, can be reached before the Spring thaw. The overall cost is estimated at about \$65 million, over double the cost of the 1940 Census. Much of this increase is due to the rise in the price level since 1940.

Back in 1790, when the first Census was taken, the job was done by 17 U. S. marshals and 600 assistants. At that time the infant Republic, which had won its freedom from Britain less than a decade before, consisted of only 16 states and two thinly-settled regions, the Northwest and South-west Territories. Florida and the whole area west of the Mississippi River were "foreign" country. The total population was less than 4 million, of whom about 700,000 were listed as slaves. The economy was predominately rural and agricultural.

(See CENSUS, Page Seven)

Liquor Sales Off At County Stores From Last Year

However, Average Is Still Nearly \$1,300 Daily for Seven Days Preceding Christmas

Total sales of liquor at the county ABC stores for the seven sale days preceding Christmas showed a decided drop for the third year in a row, according to information just released by Bill Stoyens, manager of the Plymouth store. Mr. Stoyens attributes the reduced business partly to the scarcity of money hereabouts and partly to the prevalence of bootleg whiskey in the county.

Sales in the Plymouth ABC store for December 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 totaled \$9,075.35 or \$3,008.60 less than the \$12,083.95 reported for the corresponding period a year ago. The 1947 total for the same period was \$14,006.95. It was the same story at the Creswell ABC store where the 1948 total sales for the 7 days preceding Christmas was \$1,792.80 and the figure for the same period this year was \$1,429.25 or \$363.55 less than a year ago. The 1947 figure at Creswell was \$1,961.40. From these figures it appears that business was off more in Plymouth than in Creswell.

This was also the case last year when the drop in business at the Plymouth store for the period checked was 14 per cent and that at Creswell was 10 per cent. This year the drop at Plymouth was 25 per cent and that at Creswell, 20 per cent.

It is interesting to note that with one exception sales at the Plymouth store climbed each day during the period with the final two days capping it at \$1,617.00 and \$3,114.65, respectively. The final day's sales at Creswell totaled \$596.85. The Christmas Eve sale at Plymouth was far below the record shattering sales for the same day in 1947 when \$5,624.00 was taken in for an average of \$11.72 per minute throughout the day.

Soil Technicians Working To Finish Annual Reports

Soil technicians are busily engaged in completing their annual reports, it was announced this week from the office of the Washington County Soil Conservation Service, and no outside work will be done for the remainder of the year.

Immediately after the first of the new year conservation workers will begin on their new goals. Already, a good bit of work in drainage has been mapped out which will be completed as soon as possible.

Negro Bicyclist Is Fatally Injured in Crash Last Week

Johnny Basnight Suffers Skull Fracture When Struck by Car Driven By Plymouth Man

Johnny Basnight, 52 year old Negro of Roper, died instantly of a fractured skull when the bicycle he was riding was struck by a car driven by Ernest Whitley of Plymouth last Wednesday afternoon about 5 o'clock. The accident occurred about 1 mile west of Roper on U. S. highway 64.

Basnight and another colored man were riding bicycles in the direction of Roper and traveling on their left hand side of the highway. Whitley, with four other local men, was returning to Plymouth from Edenton where he is employed at the Marine Air Base. The other Negro on a bicycle turned off on the shoulder of the road and Basnight swerved his bicycle to the right into the path of the oncoming car. He was struck by the right headlamp and thrown across the hood of the car to the windshield. The bicycle was demolished by the impact. Whitley's car, a 1942 Mercury, ran across the road to the ditch on the other side.

The wreck was investigated by Coroner Jack Horner and State highway patrolman R. W. Young of Plymouth. The coroner talked with witnesses present and ruled the accident unavoidable, deeming an inquest unnecessary. Damage sustained by the car was approximately \$150.

County Boards to Meet January 9

The board of county commissioners and the Washington County Board of Education which customarily meet on the first Monday in each month will not meet Monday, January 2 but will observe the New Year's holiday and convene the following Monday, January 9, at their respective meeting places in the county courthouse here.

Business to be taken up by the two boards at their meetings is expected to be of a routine nature.

Recorder's Court Session Called Off Here Tuesday

Due to the holiday season, there was no session of Recorder's Court here Tuesday. The court will next be in session Tuesday, January 3 and it is likely that there will be a rather heavy docket of cases to be heard. The following Monday, January 9, Superior Court will convene, thereby necessitating a postponement of the regular Tuesday morning session of Recorder's Court until Tuesday, January 17.

Roper Man Hurts Leg in Accident

William Elmer Phelps, 55, of the Holly Neck section near Roper, sustained a fractured right leg just below the hip when the 1936 Oldsmobile sedan in which he was traveling from Skippersville to Roper failed to make a curve and plowed into a swamp, hitting one tree head-on and side-swiping another. The accident occurred at 6:15 p.m. Monday near Bateman's Garage and was investigated by Highway Patrolman R. W. Young of Plymouth.

The injured man was treated by a Plymouth physician and carried by ambulance to an Edenton hospital. He is expected to be confined there for some time.

Estimated damage to the car was fixed by the investigating officer at \$300. Phelps is under indictment for driving while under the influence of intoxicating beverages and will be brought to trial as soon as he has sufficiently recovered from his injuries.

Tax Listing in County To Get Underway Next Week

Monday Is Last Day of Beer and Bear Season

With the open season on bear and deer ending Monday, January 2, it is expected that there will be considerable activity the remainder of this week among those who like to hunt the bigger game. The open season on squirrels expires in Washington county on January 2 also. The season for hunting opossum and raccoon with gun and dogs will expire February 1, two weeks sooner than was the case a year ago. Rabbits, quail and turkey may be taken lawfully through January 31. This is an extension

over last year when the season closed January 10. Under last year's regulations ruffed grouse could lawfully be taken through January 10 but this year the season closes January 2.

A change has also been made in trapping regulations. Trapping for otter, mink, muskrat, opossum and racoon may be lawfully done through January 31. Last season the closing date for otter was the same but the season on the other species extended through February 15. There is no open season for trapping beaver.

Places and Dates For Tax Listing in County Scheduled

Period to Begin in Washington County Monday and Will End on January 31, 1950

Schedules have been received by County Tax Collector E. J. Spruill from three of the four tax lists appointed by the county board of commissioners to take listings of all taxable properties in the county for 1949. The schedule of W. W. White of Skippersville Township could not be learned as this newspaper went to press. Reporting their schedules were Clarence L. Blount, Plymouth Township; R. W. Lewis, Lees Mill Township; and P. B. Belanga, Scuppernon Township. Actual work of listing will begin Tuesday, January 3 and continue through January 31.

Listers and their locations as announced by Mr. Spruill will be as follows: Plymouth Township—Clarence L. Blount, in the office of the town clerk in Plymouth every listing day in the month; Scuppernon Township—P. B. Belanga will sit at Cherry on January 4, 11, 18 and 25; at Newlands on January 12 and 26 and at Creswell on all other listing days during the month.

Lees Mill Township—R. W. Lewis will sit at W. B. Davenport's Store, Mackeys, January 12 and 19; at T. W. Tarkington's store, Pleasant Grove, January 9 and 16; at T. R. Chesson's store, Westover, January 5 and 24; at Golden Williams store, Wenona, January 11 and 18; and at Knowles Grocery, Roper, all other days in the month.

The schedule for the list taker in Skippersville Township will be published as soon as it is received.

Patrolman Young Attends Patrol Meet in Washington

State Highway Patrolman R. W. Young, of Plymouth, was in Washington Wednesday attending a highway patrol division meeting presided over by Sgt. C. R. Williams, of the patrol, stationed in Washington.

Some Observe New Years Day

All State and county offices will be closed Monday in observance of New Year's. The local bank and post office will also be closed to business all day.

All places of business, including drug stores, restaurants, grocery, hardware, clothing, furniture and appliance stores will be open for business as usual. The chain grocery stores, Pender's and A & P, will remain open although these stores sometimes observe the holiday. They were closed for two days in observance of Christmas.

Local Masons to Install Officers Tuesday Night

Installation Ceremonies to Begin at 8 o'Clock; Buffet Supper Will Be Served at Lodge Hall

Perseverance Lodge, No. 59, A. F. & A. M., will hold its annual installment service at the Lodge Hall here Tuesday night, January 3, at 8 o'clock with Robert L. Pugh of New Bern, a 33rd degree Mason and Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, serving as Installing Officer.

The following officers who were elected in December will be installed: W. A. Roebuck, Master; W. C. Hall, Senior Warden; W. R. Harden, Junior Warden; B. G. Campbell, Treasurer; and H. H. Allen, Secretary.

Incoming Master Roebuck has announced the following list of appointive officers to be installed at ceremonies Tuesday night: Earl G. Bowen, Senior Deacon; G. R. Leggett, Junior Deacon; Hilton Dunbar and Harry Garrett, Stewards; W. B. Liverman, Tiler; and R. H. Lucas, Chaplain. L. E. Doney is retiring Master.

At 7 p. m. a Buffet Supper will be served in the Lodge Hall. All members of Perseverance Lodge are urged to attend.

L & M Licenses Good Only Few More Days

The time expires at midnight Saturday, December 31, for all drivers whose surnames begin with the letters L or M to renew their operators' licenses. This period began last July 1 and is legally known as Period No. 5.

Period No. 6 begins January 1, 1950, and will extend through midnight June 30. During this period all drivers whose surnames begin with the letters N, O, P and Q are required to renew their operators' licenses.

As a general rule, motorists are very slow to renew their licenses during the first part of any given period, but usually wait until

near the deadline. As a result of this inclination, a last-minute rush almost invariably takes place, working a hardship on both license examiners and motorists.

The license examiner for this area maintains a weekly schedule in Plymouth and may be found at the office of the police department in the Municipal Building on Water Street. It is understood that this schedule may be changed effective January 1, but the new time has not been announced here. Under the present schedule, the examiner is in Plymouth three days weekly, Monday, Tuesday and Saturday.

Farm Census Report To Be Made Again After Lapse of One Year; Livestock Prices Cited

Listing of 1949 taxes will begin in Washington County on Tuesday, January 3 and will continue through Tuesday, January 31. All county residents have been requested to list their taxes as soon as possible in order to avoid a last-minute rush. It has also been pointed out that all persons who have become 21 years of age since the last listing period are obligated by law to list poll taxes this year.

Tax list takers in the county were appointed by the board of county commissioners early in December and the list takers and the tax supervisor for the county met with the commissioners on Monday night, December 19 as reported previously in the Beacon. At that time uniform prices were established for listing livestock. These prices were as follows: sheep, \$3 to \$5 each; goats, \$2 to \$3 each; poultry, 15 cents per pound; milk cows, \$75 to \$100; other cattle 8 to 10 cents per pound; horses, No. 1 \$75 to \$100; horses, No. 2, \$25 to \$75; meats, 15 cents per pound. Many of these prices were reduced from those listed in 1948.

After a lapse of one year, the taking of a farm census from the farmers of the county will be resumed by the list takers. It has been customary in the past to get this information once every five years but the importance of the farm census was brought to the attention of the commissioners and list takers at the December 19 meeting. The Washington county FMA committee stated at that time that there was a possibility that corn and soybeans might be put under government control and marketing quotas set up at a later date and that the farmers of the county could only hope to receive their rightful share in such resulting acreage allotments by making a complete and accurate report for 1949.

At the suggestion of Chairman Frank L. Brinkley a copy of a letter to that effect was furnished each list taker in the county, explaining why a good farm census report is necessary and emphasizing the value of such a report to the individual farmer.

Bonner Nominates Plymouth Youth to Military Academy

James Polk Spruill Will Take Entrance Exams in March; Alternates From Washington, Greenville

James Polk Spruill, son of Mrs. M. L. Nobles of Plymouth, is among the young men from this Congressional District who were recently recommended for appointment to West Point or Annapolis by Congressman Herbert C. Bonner.

Young Spruill was recommended for appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point, N. Y., and two alternates were named, one from Washington and the other from Greenville.

Recommendations were made for three places at Annapolis and the men named, together with alternates, are from Greenville, Elizabeth City, Hertford, Washington, Edenton and Engelhard.

County Schools Resume Classes Monday Morning

All the schools in Washington county will resume classes Monday morning, January 2, at the usual opening hour after enjoying a respite from studies which began at the end of classes on Tuesday, December 20 and extended through the Christmas and New Year's holiday season.