



THE ROANOKE BEACON

AND WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS

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

Town Topics

Mr. and Mrs. J. Harold Turner, of Plymouth, returned home Tuesday after having spent the holiday season in Damascus, Va., where they visited Mrs. Turner's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Spurgeon. Mr. Turner reported a nice trip and wonderful weather.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Robert Campbell, of Plymouth, had the most pleasant kind of Christmas season—all the family at home, including three grandchildren. Their son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Campbell, of Winston-Salem, and their daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Allen, of Williamston, together with the children, were all here for the occasion.

Local highway patrolmen at least have enjoyed a respite lately from highway accidents, even though they are usually pretty busy people in many other ways. When a young colored driver from near Roper turned his car over last Sunday morning on the Folly road, it marked the first accident reported in the county in exactly fourteen days.

Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Nobles spent the Christmas holidays at West Point, N. Y., with Mrs. Nobles' son, James Polk Spruill, who is a cadet at the United States Military Academy there. They expected to return to Plymouth Tuesday, but Mr. Nobles called yesterday to say that they were snowbound at West Point, but planned to leave this morning and be home sometime tonight or tomorrow.

Local Board in Routine Meeting Here Last Night

Final Meeting for Chairman Tetterton; Office Will Be Closed Until Next Tuesday Morning

A routine meeting of the local selective service board was held in the board office at the courthouse here Wednesday night to classify those registrants newly turned 19 years of age and to pass on the requested reclassification of other registrants. It was the last board meeting for Chairman Robert L. Tetterton, of Plymouth, who recently gave notice of resignation from the post. The board office will be closed until Tuesday morning, January 2, it was announced. At that time it will reopen for business at the usual hour—9 o'clock.

It is again urged that all registrants requesting deferments or reclassifications not wait to do this after receiving notice to report for examination or induction, but to make appeals early. It was also pointed out that once a registrant receives notice to report for examination, he cannot lawfully enlist in the service, as he would be subject to fine or imprisonment, or both, under selective service regulations. Registrants should enlist, if they so desire, before such time as they are notified to report for examination.

Those married registrants who are now classified 1-A and who wish to be reclassified, should bring their marriage certificate along when calling at the board office, it was said, since it is not mandatory that local boards classify such men in 3-A and in some cases, without the certificate, they may be sent on into service.

Christmas Shopping Up To Expectations

A cross section of Plymouth merchants interviewed reported the consensus of opinion that business was more gratifying than they had earlier hoped for, in view of all the circumstances.

Buying power certainly reached no peak in the county this year, and prices of most commodities were up as high or higher than a year ago. From the standpoint of the farm population, main segment of the economy in this rural county, it was surely no banner year, although the

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Monday Is Last Day of Deer and Bear Season

With the open season on bear and deer ending Monday, January 1, 1951, it is expected that there will be considerable activity the remainder of the week among those who like to hunt the bigger game—that is, provided the hunters are hardy enough to withstand the bitter, cold weather.

The open season on squirrels in Washington County expires the same day. The season for

hunting opossum and raccoon with gun and dogs will expire February 15. Rabbits, quail and turkey may be lawfully taken through January 31, as last season. The season on ruffed grouse closes January 1. Trapping for mink, muskrat, opossum and raccoon may be lawfully done through February 15. There is no open season for trapping beaver. Otter may be trapped legally until February 1, just as a year ago.

Christmas Holidays Are Reported Quiet Throughout County

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 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.

Local Masons to Install Officers Tuesday Night

Installation Ceremonies to Begin at 8 o'clock; Supper Will Be Served Hour Earlier

Perseverance Lodge, No. 59, A. F. & A. M., will hold its annual installment service at the Lodge Hall here Tuesday night, January 2, at 8 o'clock with Brother V. J. Spivey, of Williamston, serving as Installing Officer.

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

Incoming Master Hall has announced the following list of appointive officers to be installed at ceremonies Tuesday night: Raymond Leggett, Senior Deacon; Harry Garrett, Junior Deacon; Hilton Dunbar, Senior Steward; Dick Norman, Junior Steward; E. D. Keel, Tiler; and R. H. Lucas, sr., Chaplain. W. A. Roebuck is retiring Master.

At 7 o'clock in the Lodge Hall Master Masons are invited to attend.

Christmas Shopping Up To Expectations

prices received for peanuts were good. The yield was nothing to brag about and the tobacco crop had been cut short already, probably leaving many farmers with debts to be settled through sale of later crops.

Crowds on the streets during the days preceding Christmas were large and traffic from store to store was rather heavy. Toys and other special seasonal items were reported to have moved in good volume, and it is thought that carry-overs will be small, generally.

Icy Roads Today Cause of Several Accidents Locally

No One Injured, but Lot of Property Damage Caused by Accidents in This Area Early Today

Wrecks apparently were a dime a dozen in Plymouth and Washington County this morning (Thursday) and the sudden shift from pleasant to below-freezing weather which hit here late Tuesday could be blamed at least partly for the numerous accidents.

Patrolmen and police officers were really on the run investigating accidents here and there as calls continued to come in, it seemed, from all directions.

A Williamston colored man, Kader Brown, narrowly escaped certain death when he leaped from the cab of a truck loaded with lumber when it skidded on the icy pavement two miles west of Roper. Brown was driving the truck, belonging to the Critcher Lumber Company, of Williamston, and was headed for Edenton. The load of lumber smashed its way through the cab soon after the man leaped to safety. He was not traveling fast, and was unhurt. The damage to the truck could not be ascertained.

Cars driven by two employees of the N. C. Pulp Company here were involved in damage estimated by an investigating patrolman, R. W. Young, of Plymouth, at \$390 when they skidded on the icy concrete with the rear car crashing into the one ahead. Both cars then struck the concrete bridge rail. The car in front was a 1948 Plymouth sedan, driven by Jesse Wilson Griffin, of Plymouth. The rear car was a 1947 Ford coupe, driven by Joseph Paul Harrison, of Rt. 1, Plymouth. Estimated damage to the Ford was placed at \$225.

Damage estimated by Patrolman Young who investigated at \$400 was sustained by a 1949 Ford driven by Minnie Freeman Jackson, colored school teacher of Roper, when the car skidded and overturned on a curve west of Roper, in front of the Wigg Gaylord residence. The car was traveling in the direction of Plymouth. The driver was not injured.

Knerius Sutton, Plymouth colored man, was unhurt when his 1940 Chevrolet sedan skidded and crashed into the front yard at the Plymouth High School, knocking down a cement pillar and part of the hedge. The front end of the car was damaged approximately \$150, according to investigating officers.

It was reported from a reliable source that another wreck occurred near the sound bridge and Patrolman Carl Gilchrist, of Plymouth, left around 10 o'clock to investigate it. Details were not available at press time.

Funeral for Mrs. Mary Broughton

Funeral services were conducted Friday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock for Mrs. Mary Broughton, of Plymouth, who died at her home near here Thursday morning at 9:30. Services were held at the home by the Rev. P. B. Nickens, pastor of Ludford Memorial Baptist Church here. Burial followed in Bateman Cemetery.

Mrs. Broughton, widow of the late Frank Broughton, of Plymouth, was 83 years of age. She had been in declining health for the past three years and had been confined to her bed for 2 weeks.

Born August 29, 1867, in Martin County, Mrs. Broughton was the daughter of the late Gable Allen and Sallie Sullivan Allen. She came to Plymouth from Martin County and had lived here for the past fifty years.

Surviving are 1 daughter, Mrs. Ed Johnson, of Plymouth; one son, Albert Broughton, of Plymouth; four grandchildren and three great grandchildren; two sisters, Mrs. Ella Bateman, of Plymouth, and Mrs. Jefferson Leary, of Bath.

Real Property Values To Be Raised 20 Per Cent; Begin Listing Tuesday

February 1 Is Plate Deadline

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. One of the chain grocery stores will remain open as last year, but Pender's will observe the holiday by closing. Manager Ralph Humes said.

County Boards to Meet January 8

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 1, but will observe the New Year's holiday by convening the following Monday, January 8, at their regular 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.

The Plymouth Town Council is expected to meet Monday night, January 1 at 8 o'clock in

Legislative Sessions To Start Wednesday; Woolard Goes Early

Washington County Representative-Elect W. J. Woolard plans to leave Sunday for Raleigh, where he will be for the next several months attending sessions of the North Carolina General Assembly. The session begins next Wednesday, January 3, when the new representatives will be sworn in; but Mr. Woolard is leaving early to get lined up for new duties before the session begins.

The Democratic caucus will be held Tuesday night, when the speaker and other house officials are to be elected. The big battle will be between Fred Royster and Frank Taylor for the speakership, and the local representative has made no public commitments as to how he will vote. A Corey, of Jamesville, is reported to be a candidate for sergeant at arms of the house.

Mr. Woolard said the first of the week that he has no definite local legislation in mind at this time, and that he would make public anything of that nature before it was offered in the house. He stated that he would be glad to hear from the people of the county about any suggested legislation; and he also would like to have expressions as to the position county voters would like for him to take on matters of state-wide interest.

The representative said he had asked the county board of commissioners, board of education and officials of the several towns to make any recommendations they feel should be enacted into law, but had received no response from any of them to date. It is likely that some local legislation will be required during the session, but public notice will be given before any bills are introduced by him, the representative stated.

Mr. Woolard said he had received numerous requests for action either by the assembly or the board of conservation and development to lower the water level of Lake Phelps in this county to prevent flooding of farms in that section. He plans to look

Four Township List Takers Outline Schedules; Urge Early Listing to Avoid Last-Minute Rush

Tax listing will get underway in Washington County next Tuesday morning, January 2, when the four township list takers start in on their annual task under the direction of H. L. Davenport, of Skippersville, county tax supervisor. Final instructions and supplies were furnished the listers at an adjourned meeting of the county commissioners Tuesday night of last week, when the tax supervisor and list takers were sworn in and arrangements completed to secure uniform listing of personal property throughout the county.

Monday being a legal holiday, the listing will not begin until Tuesday morning, continuing throughout the month of January. Property owners are urged to list as early as possible, however, to avoid the last-minute rush that always develops during the last few days of the month. Warning has been given that no extension of time will be allowed for listing, and those who do not get their property on the books during the allotted time are subject to penalties for failure to list.

The following are list-takers for the coming year, appointed by the commissioners at their December meeting: Plymouth township, Clarence L. Blount; Lees Mill township, Robert W. Lewis, of Roper; Skippersville township, Walter W. White; and Scuppernon township, Paul B. Belanga.

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Some Observe New Years Day

State Highway Patrolman R. W. Young has stated that no arrest will be made in Washington County for failure on the part of automobile operators to display 1951 auto license plates until after the 30-day period of grace, terminating on February 1, which has been granted to all motorists of the state.

The new state licenses may be bought at the branch auto license bureau located at the Etheridge Company here. The bureau is in charge of E. E. Etheridge.

Plymouth city plates may be purchased in the office of W. A. Roebuck, city clerk.

License Bureau Sales Have Been Very Slow Here

Only 530 Sets of Plates Issued Through Last Saturday; Deadline Is January 31, 1951

The latest available report from the branch auto license bureau at The Etheridge Company here reveals that a total of 530 sets of 1951 North Carolina license plates of all types have been issued to motor vehicle owners, the manager of the bureau, E. E. Etheridge, said yesterday.

Sales appear to be definitely lagging when it is considered that less than five weeks remain in which to legally operate a motor vehicle displaying the 1950 license plates and that the Motor Vehicle Bureau in Raleigh has estimated the needs of the local branch in excess of 3,000 sets.

Plates issued thus far, including sales through Saturday, are listed according to categories as follows: automobiles, 412; motorcycles, 5; private trucks, 52; farm trucks, 17; class Z (small) trailers, 42; class C (commercial) trailers, 2.

Although sales are regarded as rather slow, it was pointed out that they compare very favorably with sales a year ago for the corresponding time. In fact, at the same time last year, total sales had reached only 317 sets.

Mr. Etheridge wishes to remind the public that it costs the same amount to secure the license plates, regardless of the time, and that it is in the interest of everyone concerned to get the licenses early. If the majority of the motor vehicle owners put off getting their 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 to 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.

Seal Sale in County Still Short of Quota

A total of \$547.19 has been reported toward the county goal of \$800 in the annual Seal Sale, County Chairman Mrs. Bosie Owens, of Plymouth, reported yesterday.

The total amount reported includes the sale of seal bonds and the sale of bangles in the white schools of the county and in some of the colored schools, Mrs. Owens said. Some of the colored schools have not yet turned in their reports on the sale of the bangles by school children. The total amount reported so far to date came from solicitations by mail in which the seals were sent to many persons, both white

Horizontal Increase Instead Of Revaluation Favored At Meeting of Board Held Last Week

A 20 per cent horizontal increase in the valuation of all real estate in Washington County was ordered by the board of commissioners for the tax year of 1951 at an adjourned meeting last week. The board also completed arrangements for the listing of all property during January, 1951, by giving the oath of office to the tax supervisor, H. L. Davenport, and the four township list takers, in addition to discussing and arranging for the uniform listing of personal property, including automobiles, farm products and livestock.

Next year was scheduled to be the time for a complete revaluation of all real estate in the county; but the board decided, by unanimous vote, to increase the value of all real estate by 20 per cent rather than undertake the task of revaluing each parcel or tract of real estate separately. It was felt that the present unstable and uncertain value of most property might result in too many inequalities if revaluation was undertaken, and members of the board expressed the hope that conditions would level off before it is necessary to re-examine each tract separately.

The valuation on automobiles also will be increased substantially in the listing for 1951, as the commissioners ordered that they put on the books at the average cash value as shown in the automobile "Blue Book" for 1951. Last year cars and trucks were listed at two-thirds of the average cash value shown in the blue book, and the year before they were listed at 80 per cent of the average cash value.

There was some variation in the valuation of farm products and livestock from last year, but the difference is not so great. Values fixed were as follows: Sheep, \$3 to \$6 per head; goats, \$2 to \$4; milk cows, \$100 to \$150; other cattle, 10 cents pound; poultry, 15 cents pound; horses, No. 1, \$50 to \$75; horses, No. 2, \$25 to \$75; mules, No. 1, \$100 to \$150; mules, No. 2, \$25 to \$75; lard, hogs and meats, 10 cents pound.

The most notable change in the livestock category was in the lower values for horses and mules. Value of No. 1 horses last year was carried at \$75 to \$100, against \$50 to \$75 this year. No.

See TAX VALUES, Page 12

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 2 and it is likely that there will be a rather heavy docket of cases to be heard. The following Monday, January 8, Superior Court will convene, thereby necessitating a postponement of the regular Tuesday morning session of Recorder's Court until Tuesday, January 16.

Seal Sale in County Still Short of Quota

and colored, throughout the county. Although the sale is ordinarily closed Christmas Day each year, it is possible to prolong the campaign, as has been done on occasion in the past. The sale will continue for a while, Mrs. Owens said, in the hope of reaching the quota set for the county. All persons desiring to contribute who have not yet done so, are urged to rush their contributions in. Groups, including the schools mentioned, should also get their reports in as soon as possible, in order that they may be figured in the county totals, the chairman stated.