

Peanut, Cotton Vote Next Tuesday

Peanut and cotton growers of Washington County will go to the polls Tuesday of next week to vote on the continuance or discontinuance of marketing quotas for peanuts and the imposition of quotas on cotton.

A two-thirds majority vote is necessary to insure quotas on the two crops, peanuts for the years 1954, 1955 and 1956 and cotton for 1954 only.

There will be three polling

places in the county, at Creswell, Roper and Plymouth. Farmers of Creswell, Cherry and Mt. Pleasant communities will vote at Mike Davenport's garage at Creswell. Pleasant Grove and Roper Farmers will vote at Knowles Grocery Store at Roper, while the polling place for farmers of the Plymouth and Long Acre communities will be at the Agriculture Building here.

The polls will open at 8 a. m. and voting will continue to 5 p. m.

Farm operators, tenants and sharecroppers all are eligible to participate in the referendum.

Should the referendum on cotton and peanuts carry, it would mean that the two crops will be supported at a price which is 90 per cent of parity, cotton for next year and peanuts for the next three years. Failing to carry would mean that government support levels would drop to only 50 per cent of parity.

Planters Bank Begins Business Here Today

BANK PRESIDENT



Archie W. McLean, of Rocky Mount, president, heads the list of Planters National Bank & Trust Company officials who are in Plymouth today for formal opening of their first branch. Mr. McLean, formerly vice president of the Wachovia Bank & Trust Company of Charlotte, has been president of the Rocky Mount institution since 1950.

Special Gifts Announced in Connection With Formal Opening With Open House Until 7 P. M.

A new enterprise made its debut on the local business scene today.

A crowd conservatively estimated at between 150 and 200 persons filed into the Plymouth unit of Planters National Bank & Trust Company here within the first half hour after the formal opening for business at 9 o'clock despite a steady drizzle from Jupiter Pluvius.

At least 50 persons stood in line outside the main entrance before the opening and customers were at both drive-in windows when the new bank officially opened for business.

The striking interior was made even more lovely with a profusion of beautiful bouquets from various firms as expressions of congratulations on the opening of the new banking business here.

Early patrons received gifts from the bank and souvenir favors were distributed throughout the downtown business area. Several officials from the home office of Planters National in Rocky Mount were on hand to greet patrons as they entered.

Contributing to the gala occasion was the Plymouth High School band which marched down from school in the rain and stood on East Water Street facing the bank, resplendent in the new uniforms, to serenade the opening.

The opening not only means another new business enterprise for Plymouth but also marks the first time in nearly two and a half decades that the county has had more than a single bank to serve its business needs.

At one time there were two banks each in Plymouth and Creswell and one at Roper serving this county and section. The only other bank presently in operation in Washington County—Branch Banking & Trust Company—has served the town and county continuously since establishment of the Plymouth branch in 1925.

In connection with the opening, officials announced a series of gifts for patrons. According to the announcement there will be "gifts for the first 100 depositors, 100 special gifts for depositors of \$100 or more, 10 savings accounts given to lucky depositors on the opening day and other gifts to our friends and guests."

Personnel of the bank have been on duty since December 1st and many townspeople have visited the quarters in advance of the opening.

The first drive-in bank for this immediate section, the new institution is handsomely finished and equipped throughout. There are two drive-in windows so equipped that patrons can transact any normal business without getting out of their automobiles.

Surfacing of the drives was completed Monday of this week and shrubbery has been set, greatly enhancing the outside appearance. A lighted corner sign identifies the bank, replacing the temporary sign which was erected on the lot prior to start of construction. Reflecting floodlights have also been mounted on the lawn.

Numerous Matters Discussed Monday By Town Council

Highway Officials Handle Street Surfacing Work for Town's Share of Powell Bill Funds

Street surfacing, roofing for the new fire department building and several routine matters were discussed at some length by members of the Plymouth City Council at their December meeting Monday night. Mayor A. J. Riddle presided, and all members of the council were present, as follows: E. D. Keel and W. C. Hall, first ward; J. B. Latham and George W. Harrison, second ward; J. B. Cruickshank and John F. Davenport, third ward.

Mayor Riddle reported that he had talked with N. W. Spruill, district engineer for the highway commission, and had reached an agreement to have street surfacing projects approved by the council last month completed for the amount of money the town received from Powell Bill funds.

This means total cost of the seven projects approved will be \$14,322.77, the town's share of Powell Bill funds.

The work is to be done by the highway commission, and Mayor Riddle said he had been promised the work will be started as soon as possible.

The seven projects include Winesett Circle; Darby Circle and Country Club Drive; resurfacing part of Golf Road; two blocks in Brinkley Forest subdivision; two blocks in Little Richmond; one block in Stillacres; and three blocks on Adams Street, between Fourth and Seventh Streets.

The council voted not to allow U-turns at the intersection of Adams and Water Streets, intersection of Water and Washington Streets, and intersection of Water and Jefferson Streets. Police Chief P. W. Brown was directed to have signs installed at these intersections, after which no U-turns will be permitted there.

The Virginia Electric & Power Company was granted a release from any liability for damage that may occur as a result of installation of Christmas lights in the business district.

W. T. Freeman advised the board by letter that he would not be willing to pay more than \$25 per month after January 1 for the office space he now occupies in the City Market building. The council voted to receive sealed bids for rental of the office, which will be considered at its January meeting.

Three bids were received for roofing the new fire department building. However, there were some details to be cleared up before letting the contract, and a meeting will be held on Monday.

See COUNCIL, Page 7

Board of Education Accepts Tile Bids

The Board of Education of Washington County at its meeting on Monday, voted to accept the bid of the Rocky Mount Tile Company of Rocky Mount to install quarry tile in the toilets at the Plymouth Colored, Roper White and Creswell Colored Schools for \$1,975.00. The Board also accepted the bid of A. G. Pinkham to do the plumbing work in connection with the job for \$652.00. As a part of the bid, the two contractors agreed to do the work during the Christmas holidays from December 19 through January 3, 1954. The board approved the low bid submitted by the W. M. Wiggins Company to install for \$2,836.00 a heating plant in the Plymouth School Gymnasium.

The meeting was held in the offices of the county superintendent and opened at 10 a. m. All board members were present as follows: L. E. Hassell, Roper, chairman; J. W. Norman and Mrs. K. S. Trowbridge, Plymouth; P. B. Belanga, Creswell; and J. Whitford Swain, Roper.

Optional Stock Now Offered by B&L Here

Issuance of a new type of certificate, known as optional stock, was announced this week by the Plymouth Building and Loan Association.

Z. V. Norman, Plymouth attorney who heads the building and loan organization, made the announcement. Mr. Norman pointed out that the amount and regularity of payments are left to the option of the stockholder in the new type stock.

Payments may be made as the

subscriber desires and annual dividends of three per cent are compounded semi-annually and when payments and dividends amount to the total of subscribed stock the amount may be withdrawn by the stockholder or a certificate of full-paid stock will be issued to him.

Mr. Norman called attention, also, to the fact that loan applications are now accepted daily and long-term loans may be secured if desired.

Commissioners in Routine Session Here On Monday

Hubert L. Davenport Reappointed as County Tax Supervisor for 1954; Reports Heard

The county commissioners disposed of a number of routine matters in the regular monthly meeting here Monday, reappointing Hubert L. Davenport as county tax supervisor for 1954, hearing routine reports and taking up the usual road matters.

Mr. Davenport, a commissioner himself, was reappointed in the capacity of tax supervisor on motion of Commissioner Pritchett, seconded by Commissioner J. C. Knowles.

The board will meet again on Monday of next week at 7:30 p. m. to appoint tax listers for the several townships.

The board voted to request the State Highway Commission to construct a new road and maintain it, beginning at the state-owned park in Scuppernon Township between the 30-Foot Canal and Herring Canal and continuing in a straight line to the old road.

A petition was also received and approved to be forwarded to the highway commission asking that improvement be made to a certain road from the "Gus-town" Road to the R. A. Gibbs and Percy Craddock farm, being 400 yards in length and lying in Scuppernon Township.

The clerk was instructed to write to McMullan and McMullan, attorneys, in Washington, stating that the board would again take up at its next meeting December 14 the matter of selling the 988 acres of county-owned land in the Wenona section and that the board would write them about the matter.

The clerk was also directed to write the highway commission requesting that work be speeded up on a road which runs from Highway 32 at Shadberry Lane north about half a mile to Albemarle Sound and along the sound shore seven tenths of a mile to a point 100 yards south of the Sound Bridge on Highway 32.

Routine monthly reports were submitted by W. H. Pruden, county agent, Mrs. Frances M. Darden, home agent, and E. J. Spruill, county tax collector. Spruill reported the sum of \$22,119.09 collected by his department during November.

The renewal bond of Mr. Spruill, who is also county auditor, was received by the board.

The commissioners voted that \$35 be sent to the Caswell Training School, Kinston, as a Christmas Fund donation.

All members of the board—Frank L. Brinkley, chairman, and A. R. Latham, Plymouth; J. C. Knowles, Roper; H. L. Davenport, Skippersville; and H. W. Pritchett, Creswell, were present for the meeting.

Cantata Set Here Sunday at Church

The choir of the First Christian Church will present the Sacred Cantata "King of Kings" by Daniel Protheroe on Sunday evening at 7:30 o'clock.

The Cantata consists of three parts—The Promise of the King, The Coming of the King and the Adoration of the King. Part One opens with the bass solo "Behold, the Days Come" which will be sung by Charles Hutchins. The Phillips Brooks words "O Little Town of Bethlehem" sung by the Women's chorus opens the second part. The third part opens with the entire choir singing "Fairest Lord Jesus" and ends with the chorus "Hallelujah, Amen."

Soloists will be Mrs. Frances Lucas, Misses Myrtle and Betty Jean Jackson, and Charles Hutchins. Mrs. Harry Newland, organist and director.

The public is cordially invited

Corn Survey Being Made On All Farms of County

A survey is being made in Washington County of all farms to determine whether or not corn was planted during the three-year period 1951-53.

Cooperation of farmers is urged by the county ASC office which is having the survey made. It is requested that each farmer have the information available when he is contacted by the reporter who has been asked to help with the club project.

The corn survey must be completed by Tuesday of next week. Visit after visit

Lag in Christmas Fund Donations

James Boyce, chairman of the Empty Stocking Fund for 1953, stated late yesterday that donations of food, clothing, toys and cash were "slow."

Boyce said an all-out effort would be made to raise at least \$1,500 need to provide Christmas cheer for needy persons within the county.

The chairman emphasized the importance of those persons who wish to take care of cases notifying Mrs. Ursula Spruill, county welfare superintendent, in order that there be no duplication of effort.

Santa Claus To Make His Annual Visit Here Friday

BOOKKEEPING DEPARTMENT AT NEW BANK HERE



This picture shows a portion of the bookkeeping department of the Planters National Bank & Trust Company, which is opening for business in Plymouth today. On the left Mrs. Vannie Midgette is operating a posting machine, while Mrs. Dorothy Anderson is at the keyboard of the proof machine and check sorter at the right. Micro-filming equipment and viewer are shown in the background. All furnishings and equipment at the bank are new and of the latest design.—Polaroid 1-Minute staff photo.

150 Pints Blood Goal Of Bloodmobile Unit

Red Cross Bloodmobile Unit From Regional Center To Make Last Appearance of 1953

A minimum of 150 pints of blood will be sought here Monday of next week when the Red Cross Bloodmobile from the Tidewater Regional Blood Center, Norfolk, Va., makes his last quarterly visit of 1953 to Plymouth and Washington County.

The bloodmobile will set up for operations at the Veterans Building near the Washington County Hospital and donors will be received between the hours of 11 a. m. and 4:45 p. m., it is announced.

The visit is again being jointly sponsored here by the James E. Jethro Post of the American Legion and the Bosie Bateman Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars. Refreshments will be provided by the VFW Auxiliary.

Attention has been called to the continued urgent need for whole blood and blood plasma for the gamma globulin program and for the use of civilians. Part of the blood collected during the visit here Monday will go into the local blood bank.

More than ordinary means have been employed here to stimulate an interest in the coming visit of the bloodmobile unit. Plymouth High School's band has turned out in an effort to help, a booth manned by volunteer students has been set up to solicit pledges, and a canvass has been made.

It is hoped that a large number of persons, both white and colored, who have not given blood with time after time, will donate blood on this visit in order to relieve those who have borne the brunt

Veterans Class Deadline Soon

Attention of veterans is called to the fact that those interested in enrolling for Veterans Training classes at the Greenville school must make application not later than Monday of next week.

All applications must be cleared through the state office by December 20 and it is necessary in order to have time for clearing that the deadline for making application be set at December 14. Classes will start January 1 at the Jamesville school. Those interested should immediately contact I. R. Davenport, Dardens, or V. B. Haire, vocational agriculture teacher at Jamesville.

Some From County At Soil Meeting Held in Greenville

County Supervisors, Conservation Workers and Interested Farmers at Pitt Meeting

By H. E. NEWLAND

"Will a Man Rob God? Yes ye have robbed me. But ye say, wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings." With this quotation from Malachi, Jim Sargent of the Soil Conservation Service, in speaking to the joint meeting of the Pamlico and Coastal Plain Soil Conservation districts, went on to explain "Why Soil Conservation." On Friday from 2:30 o'clock until 8 p. m. supervisors, farmers, business and professional men assembled in Greenville to report conservation progress and discuss conservation problems and explain the needs of Greene, Edgecombe, Pitt, Martin, Beaufort, Hyde, Dare, Tyrrell and Washington Counties to the State Soil Conservation committee.

One of the members of the State Committee is Jim Graham, president of the N. C. State Association.

See SOIL MEET, Page 7

Due To Arrive at 4 P. M., Accompanied by School Bands; Free Candy Will Be Given Children

Friday is the big day! Yes, to the youngsters of Plymouth and adjacent areas Friday will be just about as big a day as Christmas morning. They'll see what Santa brought them come Christmas morning, but Friday afternoon they'll see Old Saint Nick himself.

All arrangements have been completed and everything is reported in order for the annual visit to Plymouth of the merry old gentleman from the North Pole. The visit is being sponsored by Plymouth merchants and a gala parade featuring white and colored school bands has been arranged in his honor.

Thos. F. Hopkins, spokesman for the merchants' group, stated late yesterday that it is a certain-ly well-stocked with candy for Plymouth's small fry set. The storied dispenser of good things to good folks is scheduled to arrive here in mid-afternoon and he will travel into the town business section by jeep. His arrival at the junction of Water and Washington Streets is set for 4 o'clock and he is expected to remain there for the space of an hour or so during which time he will give out free candy to the kiddies.

Again, it is emphasized, parents of children are asked to please instruct them on the necessity of maintaining orderly conduct while Santa is the town's guest. If children who are downtown for the parade and visit will line up and patiently await their turn, everyone will be given an equal opportunity to receive candy and it will no doubt make a much better impression on Mr. Claus than otherwise.

Also, all children are urged to bring their letters informing Santa of their wants for his later Christmas Eve visit.

Services Held for Charlie W. Bowen

Funeral services were held from Union Chapel Free Will Baptist Church Wednesday afternoon at 3 p. m. for Charlie W. Bowen, 66, of near Plymouth. Officiating were the Rev. L. A. Ambrose, of Creswell, and the Rev. C. N. Barnett, of Plymouth. Burial was in Windley Cemetery.

Mr. Bowen suffered an attack and died near his home Tuesday morning at 8:45 o'clock. For a good while he had served as chairman of the county PMA (now ASC) committee and he was to have attended a meeting later that day.

A county native, Mr. Bowen was born October 31, 1887, the son of the late George W. and Ellen Bateman Bowen, of this county. He was married at Plymouth December 29, 1909, to Miss Mabel Weed, of Plymouth, who survives.

Mr. Bowen was a prominent citizen of the county, retired farmer, and a member of Union Chapel Church.

Surviving, other than the widow, are two daughters, Mrs. Clyde Revels, of Williamston, and Mrs. Carl Roberson, of Plymouth; three grandchildren; a sister, Mrs. Sallie Lloyd, of Bethel; and two brothers, George W. and Jesse E. Bowen, both of Plymouth.

The remains were left at Horner's Funeral Home here until an hour prior to the service when they were carried to the church to lie in state.

Belhaven Exhibit Creates Interest

The paintings of W. Frith Winslow, recently exhibited at the Fannie Mebane Ralph Memorial Library in Belhaven, attracted much favorable attention from art lovers in that and surrounding communities, it is reported.

Among paintings displayed there were several Nags Head scenes as well as other landscapes and a number of portraits.

The Winslow exhibit was brought to Belhaven through the efforts of Mrs. W. E. Bateman, jr., art chairman of the Belhaven Library Association. Mrs. Bateman, herself a painter, has been largely responsible for the growing interest in art in the Belhaven area.