



THE ROANOKE BEACON

AND WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS

Record in '53
IRON LUNGS IN USE
Join The
MARCH OF DIMES
January 2 to 31

Town Topics

Mrs. Mary Horton and daughter, Nell, have moved back to Plymouth from Greenville and are now living at 418 Washington Street. Mrs. Horton has been studying floral work for the past few months in connection with her duties as hostess at the Woman's Club in Greenville preparatory to returning to Plymouth as proprietor of a local flower shop.

Old Man Santa Claus got himself in bad repute with little Lloyd Owens, jr., here last week, but he came through the day after Christmas and everything is lovely now. Lloyd wanted a pony for Christmas and Santa made all arrangements for getting him one, even leaving the animal in a lot at one of his daddy's farms near here early last week to be ready for delivery on Christmas day. Then, on Christmas Eve night, the pony got out of the lot and ran away. Lloyd, sr., spent most of Christmas day looking for it, but it was not until the next day that the pony was finally located and delivered to Lloyd, jr., clearing Santa's reputation around the Owens' home. The pony didn't seem to think too much of the whole deal, though, because he dumped little Lloyd off in a mudhole Sunday morning.

Due to the fact that Superior Court will be in session here for the next two weeks, there will be no recorder's court held during that time. The next regular session of the lower court is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, and it is expected that a rather heavy docket will have accumulated by that time.

Harvie Hill, 11-year-old Plymouth golfer, posted an 82 for low score in his age group in the Donald A. Ross Junior Golf Tournament at Pinehurst Monday of this week. Harvie was the only Plymouth boy among the 300 or more from several states who competed. The tourney was run off over the No. 4 course. Harvie, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hill, shot a 110 two years ago in the tournament and last year posted a 62 for low score in his age bracket. Mr. Hill accompanied his son to Pinehurst Sunday and they returned to Plymouth Monday night.

Mrs. Claude Read is reported to be getting along as well as could be expected, following a recent fall. Mrs. Read suffered a fracture of the right arm and a shoulder separation, it is reported, when she fell as she was leaving her home Saturday before Christmas to visit her sister across the street.

Prominent County Citizen Succumbs At Home in Roper

Services Held at Zion's Chapel Church of Christ Tuesday Afternoon for Leon S. Brey, 66

Leon S. Brey, prominent Roper farmer, churchman and political leader, died Sunday, December 20, at his home. Death came at 3:30 p. m. He was 66.

Mr. Brey was a native of the county, born December 3, 1887, the son of the late Benjamin and Linda Poyner Brey, of Roper.

He was a lifelong resident of the county. Mr. Brey was first married to Hattie L. Swain who died 30 years ago. Then 24 years ago he was married to Pearl Hopkins, of Creswell, who survives.

Mr. Brey was a member and deacon of Zion's Chapel Church of Christ, Roper. He was active in politics, having served as chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee of Washington County. He also held the post of county treasurer at one time. He was a member of the Roper Ruritan Club and interested in all civic affairs.

He leaves, other than his wife, four daughters, Mrs. Audrey R. Phelps, Roper, Mrs. Frank A. Lasley, Staunton, Va., Mrs. Nathan P. Whitfield, Vinton, Va., and Mrs. Arthur Wallace Lilley, Jamesville; two sisters, Mrs. Milton Bowen, Plymouth, and Mrs. Richard T. Chesson, Portsmouth.

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ESTABLISHED 1889

FIVE NEW MEMBERS OF "OLD-TIMERS" GROUP AT PLANT HERE



Completing 25 years of service with the North Carolina Pulp Company, five men were welcomed into the "Old-Timers Club" by plant officials at a banquet held at the country club here Monday night of last week. Each was presented a gold watch by the company president, Herbert M. Kieckhefer, following the banquet presided over by J. A. Auchter, toastmaster and manager of the Plymouth plant. In all, there were 31 "old-timers" at the meeting last week. Pictured above are the five new members and company officials, as follows: Otis Tyree, Fred Keyes, Maurice Dotson, Mr. Kieckhefer, Mr. Auchter, Farley M. Bowers and Hencil Matheny.—Polaroid 1-Minute staff photo.

Court Term Here To Start Monday

Farm Census Is Of Great Value

Many farmers seem to think that the farm census which is taken each year by tax list takers has some direct connection with taxes, County Agent W. H. Pruden pointed out this week.

The inventory of crops by townships is valuable to all agricultural agencies in helping to map a sound and progressive farm program and actually benefits the farmer who gives in the correct information, the county agent emphasized. It should be remembered that the information is strictly confidential and in no way has any bearing on taxes.

Add Improvement In Four Schools

The county board of education has taken advantage of the holiday closing of schools to effect several major improvements. County School Superintendent R. F. Lowry announced this week.

Among improvements made during the period Mr. Lowry listed the addition of tile and new plumbing fixtures at Roper High School, Plymouth Colored School and the addition of tile at Creswell Colored School.

Also, the W. M. Wiggins Company began work Monday of this week on the new heating plant at Plymouth High School, the superintendent said. It is understood that the work is expected to be completed early next week.

Town, County Boards Are To Meet Monday

More or less routine sessions are expected here Monday of next week when various town and county governing bodies meet in regular monthly session.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners will meet in their room in the courthouse here Monday morning. A strictly routine session is anticipated, Clerk to the Board J. Robert Campbell said.

Superintendent of Schools Roy F. Lowry, of Plymouth, said yesterday that a routine session of the Washington County Board of Education is expected Monday. The board, composed of L. E. Hassell, of Roper, chairman; J. W. Norman and Mrs. K. S. Trowbridge, of Plymouth, J. Whitford Swain, Roper, and P. B. Belanga, of Creswell, will meet in the offices of the superintendent at the courthouse at 10 a. m. Monday.

The Plymouth Town Council will meet Monday night at 8 o'clock at the Municipal Building on Water Street here.

Total of 37 Cases, 24 Criminal and 13 Civil, To Be Tried; Judge Morris To Preside

The two-week mixed term of Washington County Superior Court will open here Monday of next week with Judge Chester Morris presiding.

A total of 37 cases is scheduled to be tried, 24 on the criminal calendar and 13 on the civil calendar.

The docket will be prosecuted by Elbert Peel, of Williamston, who was appointed as district solicitor when former solicitor George Fountain was appointed to the Superior Court bench by Governor Umstead. This will be Solicitor Peel's first visit here in his official capacity.

Among criminal cases expected to attract more than usual interest will be the Patrick murder case and the trial of Ronald Boyce Kulow on a manslaughter charge growing out of an automobile accident at Roper which claimed the life of Martha Hornthal, of Plymouth.

Lizzie Patrick is charged with having fatally shot her husband, Johnny Patrick, at the home of the Negro couple in Skinnerville last March. The alleged weapon was a 38 caliber pistol which the woman is said to have picked up from a table after the two returned from a neighboring house.

Kulow, a Marine stationed at the Edenton Base, is alleged to have been the driver of a 1951 Ford which failed to stop at an intersection and struck a 1947 Oldsmobile operated by Mrs. Ruby Grimes Booth, of Plymouth. Miss Hornthal, a passenger in the Booth car, was killed in the collision.

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Tax Listers and Supervisors Take Oaths of Office

Sworn in at Adjourned Meeting of County Commissioners; Prices for Listing Livestock Fixed

The county tax supervisor and township tax listers were sworn in and prices for listing livestock, tractors, trucks, automobiles, etc., were fixed at an adjourned meeting of the Washington County Board of Commissioners at the courthouse here Monday night, December 21, at 7:30 o'clock.

Members of the board present were Frank L. Brinkley, chairman; J. C. Knowles, H. L. Davenport, A. R. Latham and H. W. Pritchett.

The chairman of the board administered the oath of office to H. L. Davenport, county tax supervisor, and to Tax Listers R. W. Lewis, of Lees Mill Township; P. B. Belanga, of Scuppernon Township; Clarence L. Blount, of Plymouth Township; and W. W. White, of Skinnerville Township.

Prices were fixed for listing livestock, etc. for 1954 as follows: Sheep, \$4 and up; goats, \$2 and up; milk cows, \$100 and up; other cattle, 10 cents per pound; poultry, 5 cents per pound.

Infant Perishes In Blazing House

Fire which gutted the attic of a one-story frame house on Wilson Street Thursday of last week claimed the life of a four-month-old baby boy, Jimmy Armistead, colored.

Prompt action by the local volunteer fire department saved the home, residence of Grover Armistead and wife, along with most of the furniture and personal effects. The only damage to the lower floor was from water, according to Fire Chief I. Miller Warren.

The baby was sleeping on a bed in the attic when the fire broke out. The blaze was caused by overloaded wiring, Chief Warren determined. Some clothes as well as the family linens stored in the attic were burned. There were two beds in the attic also.

The alarm was sounded at 2:30 p. m. and firemen immediately sped to the scene.

It was the second fire fatality of the year in Plymouth. Joseph Haislip, jr., perished in the flames which destroyed the trailer home of his parents, Joseph and Dorothy Dye Haislip on Wilson Street last March 19th.

Highway Fatality Record in County Better Than 1952

Only Two Deaths So Far in 1953 Compared With Four For Last Year Property Damages Running Less

With the last few hours of the old year running out, it appeared virtually certain that the highway and street fatality record for 1953 would be an improvement over 1952 when four lives were lost within the county in automobile accidents.

So far during 1953, two persons have met death from motor vehicles mishaps along the streets and highways of Washington County.

The first of these — Martha Hornthal, of Plymouth — was killed in an accident which happened within the city limits of Roper, while the other took place along a county highway.

Miss Hornthal was a passenger in a 1947 Oldsmobile operated by Mrs. Ruby Grimes Booth, of Plymouth. The car was struck by a 1951 Ford said to have been driven by Ronald Boyce Kulow, a Marine stationed at the Edenton Base. Kulow is scheduled to be tried for manslaughter at the January term of Washington County Superior Court here. The accident happened August 27.

The second county highway death, the several months later, Monday, December 28, was that of Creswell Negro, was struck down and killed instantly by the vehicle of a hit-and-run driver while walking along the Creswell-Cherry Road on the night of October 9.

Two near-fatal accidents also happened during the year. Samuel Morris Bell, five-year-old colored boy, was struck January 24 near Roper by a 1940 Chevrolet operated by Blond Hair Overton, of Creswell. The boy was seriously injured.

Then on May 17 a hit-and-run driver's machine struck a pedestrian, James Earl Ellis, on the Mackeys Road. Ellis was critically injured and hospitalized.

Those who were 1952 victims of high and street accidents in the county included Samuel Henry Woodley, of Creswell, killed January 25, when a dump truck he was driving on the Lake Phelps Road overturned and pinned him beneath the wreckage; William Bell, Plymouth colored man, who subsequently died of injuries after having been struck October 31 in Plymouth while walking along the street. The machine which struck Bell is said to have been operated by C. E. Jones, jr., of Plymouth; Mrs. Addie Watson, of Pantego, who died of a fracture.

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Tax Listing for New Year Will Be Started Saturday

NEW PARISH HOUSE IS USED FOR FIRST TIME



The new parish house erected here by members of Grace Episcopal Church was used for the first time Tuesday of last week, when a Christmas party was held there for children of the parish. The building is practically complete, only some wiring remaining to be done. Formal dedication of the structure will be held later, according to church officials. In addition to an auditorium with a stage the new parish house contains four Sunday school classrooms and a kitchen.—Polaroid 1-Minute staff photo.

300 Families Aided By Christmas Fund

Spokesmen for Sponsoring Rotary Club Term Project "Outstanding Success;" Thanks Given

With the completion Christmas Eve of distribution of gift boxes, the annual Empty Stocking Fund, sponsored by the Plymouth Rotary Club, was brought to a successful conclusion for 1953.

Rotary Club spokesmen termed the project "an outstanding success," as great as ever. More than 300 needy families in Washington County were given a happy Christmas as the project provided food, clothing and toys for them.

Over \$1,500 was collected and the whole amount was disbursed for the purchase of gift items. The individual boxes were larger than ever in the past and an abundance of substantial food as well as fruits, nuts and Christmas candies, good clothing and toys were given to each family. It is estimated that more than 1300 persons benefitted from the project.

Mrs. Ursula Spruill, county welfare superintendent, stated

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Few To Observe New Years Day

Comparatively few places of business in Plymouth are observing New Year's Day, as a holiday. Most local stores, including furniture, hardware, grocery, clothing and appliance establishments, restaurants, filling stations and drug stores will be open for business as usual.

The A&P store will be closed all day along with federal, state and county offices. The local banks, ABC store and post office also are observing the holiday. There are no rural or city mail deliveries today, but dispatches are being made as usual.

Pasture Condition Poor

United States pasture conditions on October 1 averaged 56 per cent of normal, as low as any recorded for that date in nearly four decades except in 1934 and 1936, when conditions averaged 54 per cent.

WHERE CHRISTMAS BOXES WERE PREPARED FOR NEEDY IN COUNTY



The agriculture building here was a beehive of activity for a week or more before Christmas, as Empty Stocking Fund officials and volunteer workers were kept busy preparing boxes of food, toys and clothing for distribution to needy persons throughout the county. The above photo shows some of the volunteer workers, including white and colored Boy Scouts, engaged in assembling items for the boxes under the direction of James Boyce, fund chairman, and Mrs. Ursula B. Spruill, county welfare superintendent, on Friday night before the distribution was completed Monday of last week.—Polaroid 1-Minute staff photo.

Month of January Allotted For Listing Property; To Avoid Late Rush Early Listing Is Urged

Tax listing will get underway in Washington County Saturday of this week when the four township list takers start in on their annual task under the direction of Hubert L. Davenport, of Skinnerville, county tax supervisor.

Final instructions and supplies were furnished the listers at an adjourned meeting of the county commissioners Monday night of last week when the supervisor and tax listers were sworn in and arrangements completed to secure uniform listing of personal property throughout the county.

Since Friday is a legal holiday, it has been decided to begin the listing job on Saturday and it will continue through February 1. Property owners are urged to list as early as possible, however, to avoid the last-minute rush which 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 provided by law for failure to list.

The following are list takers for the year, appointed by the commissioners at their December meeting here:

Clarence L. Blount, Plymouth Township; R. W. Lewis, Lees Mill Township; P. B. Belanga, Scuppernon Township; and W. W. White, Skinnerville Township.

Mr. Blount will list in the commissioners room on the first floor of the courthouse here, his hours being from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. Monday through Saturday and throughout the month.

Series Important Farm Meetings in County Announced

County Agent Issues Invitation To Attend Meetings Set for Agriculture Building in January

A series of important farm meetings has been scheduled for Plymouth.

The announcement was made here today by County Agent W. H. Pruden. The meetings will be held on three successive days at the Agriculture Building, Mr. Pruden said, and should prove profitable to those who attend.

The meetings will be held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, January 12-14, and will consist of morning and afternoon sessions daily. These sessions will cover "practically every phase of production which farmers of this county are interested in," the county agent stated.

Letters are being mailed to individual farmers urging their attendance and all other persons interested in the agricultural progress of Washington County are cordially invited, it was said.

Practically the entire staff of specialists at State College are being rotated in 16 Eastern counties during the meeting series, it was stated. The Tuesday morning session will cover horticulture, tobacco will be taken up at the afternoon session. Wednesday morning field crops will be considered while that afternoon will be devoted to study and discussion of fertilizers and chemical weed control. For the concluding day, poultry and turkeys will be considered in the morning and beef cattle, sheep and swine in the afternoon.

All phases of production in each of these divisions will be thoroughly discussed, Pruden stated, and many new developments in production practices extremely helpful to the progressive farmer, will be taken up—for instance, how to raise hogs at a much lower per-pound cost.