

Best Wishes
For A Very

Merry Christmas

Town Topics

THE ROANOKE BEACON

AND WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS

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

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Plymouth, Washington County, North Carolina, For Thursday, December 23, 1954

ESTABLISHED 1889

There will be no Christmas week lay-off for recorder's court personnel, according to Judge W. Ronald Gaylord. However, a comparatively light session was in prospect for Tuesday of this week. Court will be scheduled as usual for the next two weeks but will be suspended January 11, since Superior Court will be in session here for a two-week mixed term, opening Monday, January 10.

Among persons who will doubtless be glad when the holiday season is over could be listed the post office personnel. The rush is always terrific at Christmas and this year was no exception, according to Postmaster J. C. Swain.

Sales of motor vehicles license plates at the local office of the Carolina Motor Club on Washington Street continue rather slow, according to the latest report from Manager James H. Ward. Deadline for displaying the new state tags is January 31.

Jack M. Frank, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack D. Frank of Plymouth, was on the dean's list at East Carolina College for the fall quarter, which ended November 24th. Young Frank is a sophomore at East Carolina, having graduated from Plymouth High School with the class of 1953. An average grade of 90 or better is required for students to appear on the dean's list.

Air Cadet Lawrence D. Jones, jr., arrived last week to spend the Christmas holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Jones. Young Jones entered the Air Force in March and recently completed his primary flight training at Marana Air Base, near Tucson, Ariz. He will report to Webb Air Force Base, Big Spring, Texas, on January 3rd to begin basic flight training. His class is scheduled to graduate and receive commissions as second lieutenants in June of next year, after which they will be assigned to advanced flight training.

Local merchants reported generally that for the first two Fridays during the pre-Christmas shopping season when stores remained open until 9 p. m. there was comparatively little traffic after 7 o'clock. However, such was not the case last Friday

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Need a License Now? If So, Better Hurry

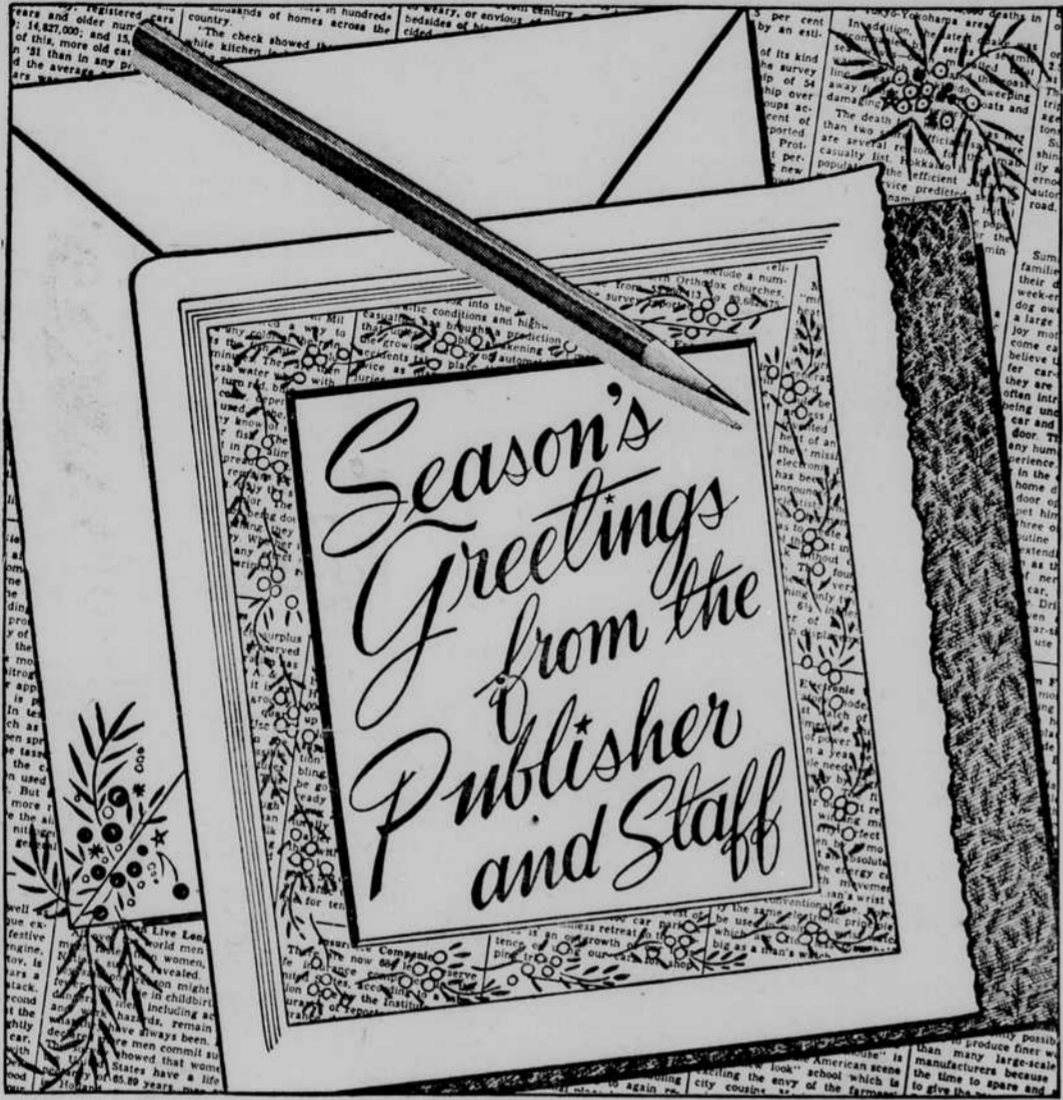
If Cupid has any unfinished business to get off before the holidays, then he had better hurry. The place to which young couples with marriage in mind go to get the necessary license will be closed after Thursday of this week and will not reopen until Tuesday, December 28.

So, if you want to obtain a license before Christmas you'd better hurry down to the register of deeds office in the courthouse here right away, advises J. Robert Campbell, register of deeds who issues the permits.

LEGION AUXILIARIES SPONSOR VETS' GIFT SHOP



Mrs. W. S. Carawan, of Columbia (extreme right), president of the North Carolina Department of the American Legion Auxiliary, attended the official opening of the gift shop at the veterans' hospital in Fayetteville earlier this month. Similar shops have been set up at the other four veterans' hospitals in the state to enable patients to secure gifts for members of their families at Christmas time. Others in the photo above include J. S. Pittman, manager of the hospital; Mrs. A. F. Bailey, department auxiliary hospital representative; and a number of patients at the Fayetteville hospital.



Stocking Fund Boxes Are Being Delivered

Special Services Announced For County Churches

Programs Range From Single Service to Full Week Schedule; Cantatas Presented Sunday

According to reports received by The Beacon, several county churches will hold special Christmas services.

The Plymouth Methodist and combined choirs presented a cantata, "The Story of Christmas," by Alexander Matthews Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock at the Methodist Church. The event was directed by J. Shepherd Brinkley, who also served as organist. Solo parts were taken by Miss Myrtle Gray Jackson, Mesdames W. H. Peele and E. W. Furgurson, and

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Food Items, Fruit, Candy, Etc., Boxed by Volunteer Workers for Distribution To Needy Families

Deliveries of Empty Stocking Fund Christmas packages of food, toys and miscellaneous items to needy families throughout the county were scheduled to begin Tuesday and be completed by Wednesday, Carl L. Bailey, jr., county chairman of the projects, reports.

Items of clothing and shoes will have to be given out by appointment and this will be done after the first of the year, it was said. Needy families will be fitted with clothes and shoes after the Christmas rush is over. But the boxes packed here by volunteer workers and containing fruits, candy, toys, etc., were to be distributed in time for Christmas.

The tremendous task of packaging was to begin Monday afternoon, according to the schedule announced by the chairman, and continue Monday night, Tuesday and Tuesday night, if necessary. The auditorium of the Agriculture Building is where packaging was to be done.

The project is sponsored in the county each year by the Plymouth Rotary Club in an effort to bring holiday cheer to needy families. Mrs. Ursula Spruill, county welfare department superintendent, states that over 700 persons were materially helped by the project last year.

Assisting the Rotarians in the project are a number of clubs, churches and individuals. The welfare department has also given strong support and each year furnishes a list of needy cases which list is added top suggestions from individuals.

It was said that acknowledgments would be made next week to those who helped in the project in one way or another, those who donated the use of trucks to make deliveries and the individuals who worked in getting the gift boxes to the homes.

Christmas Shower At Creswell High School

The home economics department of Creswell High School is holding "Home Ec. Time" Monday of this week for parents and friends to visit the classroom and see for themselves what is being accomplished.

Time is from 7 to 9 p. m. A Christmas shower is to be had with gifts brought during the evening.

Stop Sewer Work; True Temper Mill Lodges Objection

Claims Dumping Sewage Near Plant Would Be Detrimental to Log Pound; Riddle Sees Long Wait

Work was stopped Monday of last week on the sewer line being laid by the Town of Plymouth near True Temper Corporation plant, Mayor A. J. Riddle reported.

Pumps and equipment were hauled in and stored, the mayor said, after the True Temper management had raised objections to the town dumping sewage in the creek south of the Norfolk Southern Railroad on the grounds that such would be detrimental to the plant's log pound.

The Town has already spent \$14,000 for cast iron pipe and for labor in laying the line, the mayor added.

The State Health Department had previously sent a representative to Plymouth to examine the situation, Riddle continued, and he said the state board subsequently gave its permission for the sewage to be dumped according to the plan being followed by the Town when the objection was raised.

Riddle stated that he and Police Officer Paul Basnight attended an hour and a half meeting here Monday, December 13, with Manager Morris Brobst, of the local True Temper Corporation, and an engineer from True Temper Corporation from its Cleveland offices, and M. O. Cayton, sanitary engineer with the State Health Department.

Riddle said that on Monday night Brobst and the Cleveland representative met with Attorney Z. V. Norman, local counsel for the corporation, and that the decision was reached.

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Beacon Office Closed Until December 28th

The Roanoke Beacon office will be closed after Monday, December 20, through Monday, December 27, reopening for business Tuesday morning, December 28. This is one of the few holiday occasions observed by the newspaper and staff members will vacation and observe the Christmas holidays at the same time.

This issue of the Beacon was

Chairman Urges County Support Christmas Fund

To Date Over \$1,400 Cash In Hand; Original Goal Set at \$2,000, Plus Commodity Donations

By Carl L. Bailey, Jr., Chairman Empty Stocking Fund

The finance committee of the Empty Stocking Fund met on Thursday night and canvassed the financial situation. Originally a goal had been set to raise \$2,000.00 in cash, plus toys, clothes, and other commodities for the 1954 Christmas operations. To this date the cash on hand amounts to only \$1,435. In 1953 the Empty Stocking Fund served 224 families in the county, comprising 716 people. The indications are that the families needing aid from the Empty Stocking Fund this year will be 63 more than last year, or a total of 287 families. Of these 125 are in Plymouth Township, 86 in Lees Mill Township, and 76 are in Skimmersville and Scuppernon Townships.

Unless further contributions are received, amounting to at least \$500.00 to \$600.00, the operations of the Empty Stocking Fund will have to be drastically cut. Even if this sum is raised, it may be necessary to strike from the list some marginal cases. It is certain that unless further material contributions of money are received, the number of persons receiving Christmas cheer from the Empty Stocking Fund will be much smaller than last year. This is true even though the number needing it is greater than last year.

Rather full reports have been received from Plymouth with collections of more than \$1,000.00 of the total. Among new contributions turned in at the meeting were those by the Plymouth and Creswell Colored Schools, and collections made by Luretha Cooper at the time of the committee meeting. No reports had been received from any part of the county outside the Plymouth area except from the colored schools and from those soliciting contributions from the colored people.

People of all sections of the county are urged to make contributions quickly, or they will be too late. If no one calls for contributions, individuals are urged to bring or mail them to James H. Ward, treasurer, Empty Stocking Fund, Plymouth.

Tax Supervisors, Listers To Meet

A special meeting of the Washington County Board of Commissioners, the county tax supervisor and tax listers of the several townships, is being held Monday night of this week, beginning at 7:30 o'clock. The meeting is being held at the courthouse here.

Purpose of the meeting is to administer the oath of office to the supervisor and list takers and to establish uniform prices for listing livestock and other items of property in the annual listing which is held during the month of January.

Hubert L. Davenport, of Skimmersville, is county tax supervisor and listers, by townships, are: Paul B. Belanga, Scuppernon Township; R. W. Lewis, Lees Mill Township; Paul Swain, Plymouth Township; and W. W. White, Skimmersville Township.

Funeral services were held at the home Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock, with Elder W. E. Grimes of Greenville and Elder A. B. Ayers of Williamston conducting the last rites. Interment was made in the Robersonville cemetery.

Mr. House is survived by his wife, Mrs. Lúdie Williams House, of the home place; two daughters, Mrs. E. L. Etheridge of Plymouth and Mrs. H. S. Johnson, jr., of Hamilton; five sons, Jasper W. House of Plymouth; Clayton House, former Plymouth resident who now lives at Hamilton; Berry and Howell House, of Robersonville; and Garner House, of Virginia Beach, Va. He also leaves one brother, Thomas L. House, of Robersonville.

Local Business Houses Send Annual Greetings

The business firms and merchants of Plymouth are again extending holiday greetings to their patrons in the county through the columns of The Roanoke Beacon as an expression of their sincere appreciation for the business given them during the year now drawing to a close, and as a token of friendship.

To embrace the Yuletide spirit of comradeship and good

will to all, these business firms of Plymouth extend their wishes to everyone everywhere for "A Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous New Year." The greeting pages and advertisements in the Beacon have become a Washington County institution at Christmas every year. Read the little messages, which help the season to be a lot more than just merely a few days off from the old grind.

Majority Firms Here Will Close Two Days

Some Chain Stores Reopen Monday, Most Businesses Tuesday After Christmas; Schools Get 16 Days

Varied Christmas holiday schedules will prevail among Plymouth's industrial and business establishments this season, with the closing ranging all the way to 16 days, the length holiday period to be enjoyed by faculties and student bodies of the various county schools.

Classes were dismissed early Friday at all schools and the regular schedule will be resumed Monday, January 3.

The majority of stores and business establishments in town, other than restaurants, drug stores and gas stations, will be closed from Friday night of this week until Tuesday morning at the usual opening hour, giving employees Christmas Day, Sunday and Monday off.

However, it is understood that some of the chain stores will open for business next Monday. Belk-Tyler's, A&P and Leder Brothers will be open that day.

The banks will close Friday and reopen Tuesday at the usual hour. Both banks will render a special service to merchants by remaining open from 4 to 5 p. m. Christmas Eve, it has been announced.

It could not be learned at press time just what holiday schedules the local garages will observe. It is thought, however, that some or all may reopen Monday after Christmas.

The North Carolina Pulp Company has announced that its plant will be shut down Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and will reopen Monday following.

The Atlas Plywood Corporation will cease operations Friday and will resume the following Monday, it is understood.

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Father of Local Man Died Friday

Lester House, 74-year-old farmer of near Robersonville and father of Jasper W. House of Plymouth, died suddenly at his home Friday afternoon at 5:15, following a brief illness that lasted only a day.

Born on November 24, 1880, Mr. House was the son of the late Berry A. House and Acca House, of near Robersonville. He lived all his life in the same general neighborhood and was considered to be a very successful farmer. He was also active in affairs of the Primitive Baptist Church and served as a deacon of the church at Flat Swamp for many years.

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Tragic Accident; Young Child, 2½, Shotgun Victim

Brenda Ambrose Dies Instantly in Blast From Gun In Hands of Her Eight-Year-Old Uncle

A tragic accident in the Pea Ridge section of this county late Friday afternoon of last week claimed the life of two-and-a-half-year-old Brenda Ambrose, daughter of Roy H. and Mary Bagley Ambrose, of Roper RFD.

The child was hit in her lower face by the shot from a 20-gauge double-barreled shotgun in the hands of eight-year-old David Bagley, uncle of the little girl.

The shooting took place in a small bedroom of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alton Bagley, parents of David and grandparents of Brenda Ambrose.

Coroner J. L. Horner, of Plymouth, who with Sheriff J. K. Reid went to the home at about 6 o'clock Friday night to investigate the shooting, deemed an inquest unnecessary.

Horner said the shooting took place at 5 p. m. and that Mrs. Bagley had gone out of the house to feed the chickens and was in the yard when she saw David run out of the house crying immediately after she heard the gun report. The gun had "kicked," the recoil knocking out one of the boy's front teeth, it was stated.

The boy had taken the gun from a bedroom closet, and Horner said it had one shell in it. The little girl's mouth was evidently shot at the time the shot took effect, it was said. Only two shot were found in her upper lip and the lower part of her mouth and her chin were torn away and teeth were found across the room.

A young baby was in a crib in the room where the shooting took place, the coroner reported, but was in the opposite end of the room from the line of fire.

The shot was obviously fired at rather close range, the coroner continued, but not close enough to leave powder burns on the victim.

Brenda Ambrose was born in Tyrrell County, July 9, 1952.

The little girl is survived by her parents; both sets of grandparents, the Bagleys, and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert E. Ambrose, of Roper RFD; a sister, Mary Fay Ambrose, and a brother, Roy H. Ambrose, both of the home.

Services were conducted Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock from Scuppernon Church of Christ, Creswell, by the Rev. Mark A. Woolard, pastor. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Court Term To Open Jan. 10th

A two-week mixed term of Washington County Superior Court will open here Monday, January 10, with Judge Malcolm C. Paul, of Washington, scheduled to preside over the first week of court and Judge Q. K. Nimocks, jr., of Fayetteville, the second.

The county bar has not held its meeting to set the calendar of cases to be heard at the term but it is expected that the civil and criminal term calendars will be released in time for publication in the next issue of this paper.

Billy West Hit Thursday Night By Hit-Run Car

Carolina Freshman Enroute Home Was Badly Injured While Helping Change Flat on Shoulder of US 64

Officers in this area are seeking a hit-and-run driver whose vehicle struck and injured Billy West, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom West, of near Plymouth, last Thursday at 6:30 p. m. on US 64 about two miles east of Jamesville as the youth was changing a flat on a car parked on the road shoulder.

Young West had caught a ride at Williamston with Ed Taylor,

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RETIRING PLYMOUTH SOLDIER HONORED AT POST



Sergeant First Class Benjamin F. Bowen, retiring from the Army after 20 years of service, is congratulated by Major General R. F. Ennis, Fort Jackson, and 101st Airborne Division Commander, at Escort of Honor ceremonies held for the retiring personnel at Fort Jackson recently. Sfc. Bowen is shown receiving a Third Army certificate of achievement. The honor went to one officer and eight enlisted men at the ceremony. Sfc. Bowen's home is near Plymouth, and he is brother to Gordon Bowen.